WORLD SOCCER

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FRONT COVER PICTURE:
Allan Clarke, of Leeds United, in action against Anderlecht.

WORLD SOCCER
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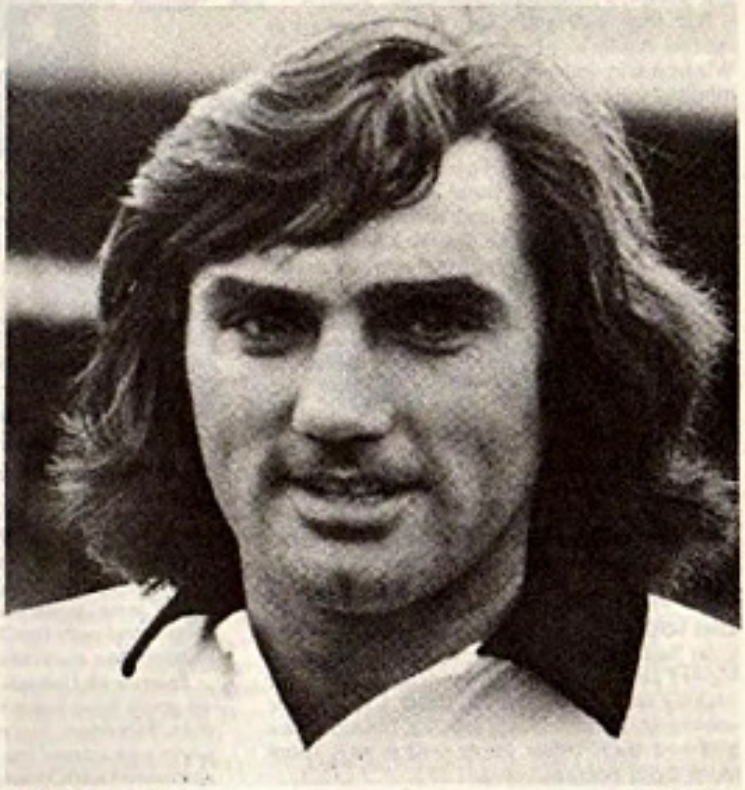
The INTERNATIONAL Magazine



MARSH

COMMENT

BEST

IF WORLD SOCCER was to award prizes for initiative and enterprise then this month's recipient would undoubtedly be the Fulham Football Club, a homely sort of institution situated on the south bank of the Thames in a rather pleasant corner of London.

Fulham, for the benefit of those living in Outer Mongolia and a little behind with their soccer news, had the foresight to sign George Best and Rodney Marsh and the effect these two flamboyant characters have had on Fulham is a joy to behold.

Best and Marsh both pulled up their Football League roots for various but similar reasons. Both found new leases of life in the North American Soccer League. Both attracted Fulham and, ultimately, both signed upon the dotted line.

English football has precious few players worth crossing the road to see. Fulham have two, and a third if you include Bobby Moore, with his 100 and more England caps and still a fine, influential player.

Best appears to have put all his troubles behind him, is enjoying his football and with Marsh has brought a welcome breath of fresh air to Craven Cottage, the Second Division in particular and the Football League in general.

There are some who would even suggest that Marsh is the better of the two but I don't think comparisons are either necessary or conclusive.

The fact is that in a short space of time they have rejuvenated a club for whom most Londoners have a warm affection. I saw my first League game at Fulham and though never an ardent follower of the club have always enjoyed my infrequent visits to Craven Cottage.

Fulham provide the perfect stage for Best and Marsh. Entertainment is what matters say the club and good luck to them for that.

It could be that if Fulham find themselves at the top of the Second Division, with promotion a possibility, they will have to adopt a more cautious approach. And there is no doubt that some of the division's cloggers, with little respect for skill, will attempt to stop the Best/Marsh variety act.

Fulham's investment in this duo has also paid off handsomely in pure financial terms. Crowds are well above average — an indication, surely, that the English public still have a taste for the artistry of football, if you can only find the players to provide it.

Fulham's home match against Hereford was a pleasure to watch. After the television highlights the following day numerous people I know started talking in terms of going along to Craven Cottage. Wild horses wouldn't drag them to Highbury or White Hart Lane.

There just has to be a moral there somewhere.

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News round-up .... News round-up

Pacemakers RODA JC

RODA JC continue to make the pace in the Netherlands and after seven matches were the only remaining side unbeaten, having dropped only one point.

With just one newcomer in the squad in the shape of Danish midfield player Jens Kolding from B 03 Copenhagen, the team is based on last season's formation.

But they suffered their first defeat away against Anderlecht in the first leg of the Cup Winners Cup in sensational fashion. With two minutes remaining Roda were leading 1-0 but conceded two goals to the Belgians before the end!

The big three clubs, Feyenoord, Ajax and PSV, the champions, have not been having matters to themselves and recently all three were beaten on the same day. But Feyenoord, who have dropped only these two points (to Roda), are second a point behind Roda, while Ajax are third.

Twente Enschede are struggling already though and with one win and a draw so far are only one place above cellar dwellers FC Amsterdam the only side in the league without a point.

AFTER JUST three matches in the resumed Portuguese championship, Sporting Lisbon are the only 100 per cent team, establishing a one-point lead at the top of the table from FC Porto.

In fact, apart from these two clubs, only Estoril and Braga are unbeaten. Benfica are making one of the worst starts to a league season in their history, having drawn twice and lost their other game which puts them third from bottom.

For one-time Benfica boss Jimmy Hagan, now in charge of Sporting, it is an ironical situation but it is not too pleasant for another of his countrymen, John Mortimer, now occupying the hot seat at Benfica.

Goals are no problem for Varzim whether scoring or letting them in. Having previously scored only twice and let in nine they won their third game 7-2 against Montijo, the newly-promoted club.

A LIBERAL sprinkling of drawn matches in the first two weeks of the Belgian season leaves only one club with a 100 per cent record: FC Bruges, the champions, who are again on top.

Apart from Beerschot's opening 6-2 win over Lierse, goals have been difficult to come by too and only the 3-2 win by Bruges away to Ostend has matched it.

Even with these higher scoring games, only 40 goals have been registered in 18 games to date. However, for newly-promoted Kortrijk a win and a draw has given them a useful start compared with Winterslag, who accompanied them up and are still seeking their first point along with Beringen and Ostend.

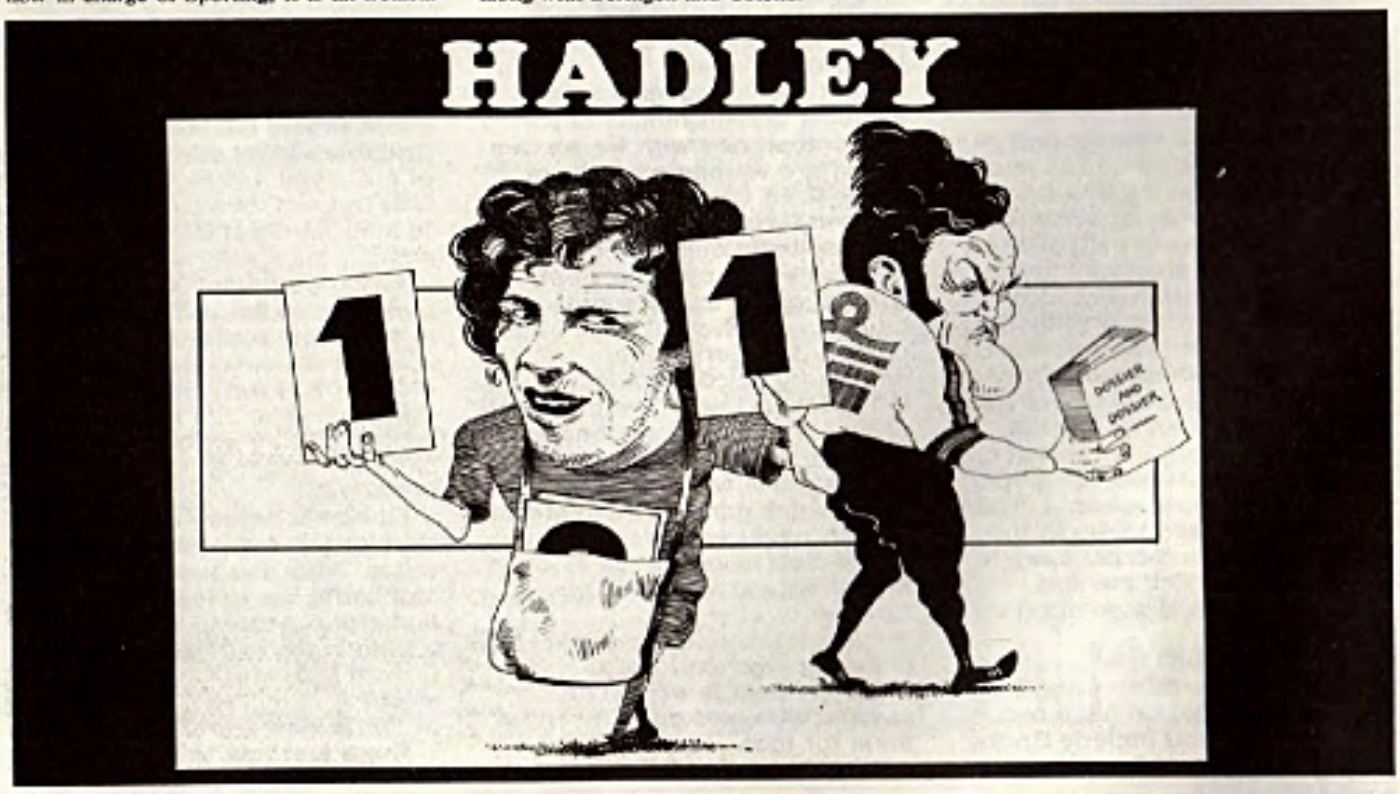
A goal by Francois Van der Elst gave Belgium a 1-0 win in Reykjavik against Iceland. Since Holland could also only record a similar victory no ground has been lost in the opening World Cup qualifying games.

And the Under-21 side had an encouraging 1-1 draw against the French.

EVEN BY Luxembourg's modest standards, the 7-1 defeat against Finland in the World Cup qualifying match in Helsinki was a poor performance.

Only the second time that the two countries had met, it provided Finland with their best win internationally speaking. Oddly enough in the previous meeting in 1951 which Finland had won 3-0 the team included Aulis Rytkonen, now the Finns manager.

Finland went into the interval with a three-goal lead and only in the second half did Luxembourg get on to the scoring sheet when substitute Gilbert Zender, who came on at half-time scored what was nothing more than a consolation goal after 52 minutes.



Jack Rollin writes

Eighth defeat for Akranes

AS EUROPE'S wealthy elite prepared for another onslaught on the three major cup competitions, contrast the same situation for probably the last of the real amateurs at this level, IA Akranes of Iceland.

Under the guidance of their Lancashire born coach Mike Ferguson whose seasoned soccer service embraced 500 League and Cup matches as a winger with Accrington Stanley, Blackburn Rovers, Aston Villa, Queen's Park Rangers, Cambridge United and Rochdale, the club reached the Icelandic Cup Final and then received the unknown Turkish champions Trabzonspor in the European Cup three days later.

When he arrived to take charge at the start of the season in March, Akranes were already 1975 champions. But what he didn't know was that they had lost six or seven of that team.

One had gone to Sweden to work, another decided to concentrate on playing Bridge, the owner of a fishing company had pressing business commitments etc.

"I had to start almost from scratch but when I left just before the end of the League season for a holiday recently back in England, they were likely to finish second or third," said Ferguson.

He believes in coaching from a practical way in the strict sense and is an attacking style advocate.

"I don't ask them to do anything I can't show them. And I never try to attempt anything outside their capabilities.

"They only train in the evenings because of their jobs. Three of them are with the local council, three others in the shipbuilding trade, one is the chairman of the club's sports organisation another the island's Badminton champion."

Ferguson reckons he has one gem of a player in 17-year-old schoolboy striker Peter Petursson a youth international and now in the full national squad under another Englishman Tony Knapp.

"Peter reminds me a bit of Alan Taylor who was at Rochdale with me before going to West Ham," enthused Ferguson. "Though Peter's not as fast he is a better footballer.

"When I moved him from midfield up front we scored 18 goals in seven games. He can take players on but he also has the ability to draw them away, too, which is rare in Iceland.

"Blond, left footed — you know how they stand out. He's a natural talent."

Despite being pressed Ferguson is not staying on.

"There's nothing to do here and it was especially hard on my family. At least I had my coaching job to do which I thoroughly enjoyed," he added.

His last engagement was due on Turkey's Asian Black Sea coast in the second leg with his side 3-1 down from the first game.

"It's very unlikely but if some of the team were refused permission by their employers for time off to travel for the second-leg they would go anyway, they're that keen. There's no compensation for being away from work, in fact they are out of pocket over it and they even have to buy their own boots."

Still in a crisis individual loans might not be too difficult to arrange at the town's two banks. The club is strategically represented as one player is the manager of the first bank, and other the cashier of the second.

Imagine the overwhelming disappointment when Akranes were beaten 3-0 in the Cup Final by Valur. It was their eighth appearance in the final but not once in 15 years had they managed to win.

The players were so low that they were behind against Trabzonspor before they knew what had hit them. Still they fought back and levelled the scores until the Turks scored twice at the end to take a commanding lead for the second leg.

Unfortunately Ferguson's few games in charge have not been happy ones either. A row developed in the club with the players resentful of the attitude of their chairman who seemed more concerned with socialising with the Turkish team than worrying about his own players.

On the day of the match the Icelandic players had to work as usual up to 1 o'clock but then they arrived at the ground they couldn't find the kit. And after it was all over they had to settle for a coke and a hot dog . . . shades of Real Madrid?

Go with Wendt?

LIFE FOR newly-promoted Bundesliga club, Tennis Borussia Berlin, has been anything but dull. After five matches they found themselves with three points and the worst goals against record in the League, having conceded 23 goals.

On the credit side of scoring they had managed eight goals and seven of them had been scored by their new Swedish international centre-forward Benny Wendt, including four in one match against Fortuna Dusseldorf.

Their worst defeat was 9-0 against a rampant Bayern Munich side and the following week they were at home against FC Cologne, the league leaders, and the only side who had not dropped a point.

After only two minutes Wendt scored for Tennis and from here they went (sorry) on to score two more and keep this 3-0 lead until the last three minutes when Cologne scored twice to add some respectability to the scoreline.

Who's for Tennis, you might ask? Clearly Mr. Wendt who, incidentally, was signed from . . . Cologne.

'THE DYING O

... the fines written abou Football says

IN MY view, Brian Glanville's "The Dying of the Light" (Secker & Warburg) is by far the finest novel ever written about Association Football. It is a book lovingly, one might say, passionately, conceived by a master craftsman, whose knowledge and observation of not only the game but also of human nature are painfully accurate.

Len Rawlings, the novel's central figure, is an ex-England goalkeeper of giant stature, whose heroic deeds still live brightly in the memory of those who saw him play. But once he "hangs-up his gloves" he cannot cope with the real world, becomes a petty criminal, a nuisance and an embarrassment to his family and admirers.

The climax of the book is so enthralling, that it kept me armchair-bound until dawn, weeping in my helplessness to offer consolation to people who inevitably face the inevitable predicament of getting old. Glanville in his fictional (?) story of Len combines his two pet themes previously explored in his earlier works. "The Olympian" dealt with the exploitation of the athlete, and "The Comic" with the transient nature of spectacular "showbiz" success.

Quite superb

This, his latest book, goes further and the characters in it are sharply drawn, one suspects many of them are thinly disguised alter-egos for "real" people. We have the obligatory ostentatious Jew — a "must" in the Glanville novel. I wonder why?

The directors of a football club are all Philistines, real "goodness" can only be found in a semi-detached at Croydon. But we have a scene in a magistrates court when Len is up for shoplifting, which is quite superb in its detail, mixing the trivial with the extraordinary, and the excitement of it all equals the thrills of any football match one cares to remember.

Brian uses three devices to tell his fascinating story. Len's own words, his daughter Jenny's occasionally contradictory and confused diary, and a brilliant pastiche of a ghosted book about Len, "Post to Post", which is of course non-existent.

But as Len also thinks of himself in cliches, this book within the book is particularly relevant and poignant. What does football mean to Len? "Football's warm, that's the thing about it. You can have your ups and downs but you've still got your place, especially if you've been the kind of player I was. So when you're out in the cold, it's really cold, like living in a foreign counry where you don't speak the language, where they go by different rules".

But there is a heavy price to pay for a distinguished past. "I thought many times how ironical it was, how you paid for having once been famous, how people still remembered what you looked like, what you'd done, long after you'd done it. It was a punishment, like they'd put the mark of Cain on you."

Jenny, the intellectual daughter, a mouthpiece for the author, says to her father: "I mean really cheated. Not just in that: in life. The casino and the shop were only symptoms. If you'd not been cheated, it would never have happened, they'd never have been necessary. You wouldn't have been reduced to things like that. You've been a hero! You've lit up people's lives! You've been a symbol to them! And when it was over, when you had to stop playing, when they'd no more use for you, they just flung you aside."

Deserves better

Len finally realizes what has happened to him. "When I was playing people, rightly or wrongly, lived through me and idolised me. But the life of an athlete is a paradox. He finishes his career when other men are barely beginning theirs. When his youth ends, so does his activity. It's convenient to forget him, but it's also inhuman. He deserves better than to be left to rot. He has been conditioned and encouraged to do one thing superbly, at the expense of almost any other thing. He is .

F THE LIGHT'

t novel ever t Association Leslie Vernon

what you made him and what you in your indifference destroy."

With the help of his daughter, he decides to go out with a grand gesture in front of a crowd of football fans. But even the packed stadium is a depressing place for people who have nothing else in their sad little, drab lives. It is "a place for hired gladiators, whose allegiance could change overnight".

Len was cheated, "but the whole thing is a cheat and a masquerade, a weed that grew grossly out of brutalising cities, and reconciled people into living in them".

So far so good, better than good . . . but, I am still not totally convinced that Glanville's highly original premise is right. After all, we are all exploited one way or another. Ambition itself is a trap — in any walk of life. And what can be done for the athletes who are too old to perform?

Society, in the shape of the football fraternity, owes them a living, shrieks Brian through Jenny, passionately. How can that be done in practical terms? There is a pension scheme operated by the P.F.A., but its existence — indeed the existence of the Players Trade Union — is conveniently ignored by Glanville.

There are many ways ex-footballers, even those of the cloth-cap era, are helped — indeed, one can only think of a couple of players who finished-up in the docks of magistrates' courts. And there is no suggestion whatever that our fictional Len was a drunkard a gambler or a womanizer.

What these so-called "victims" are really missing is the smell of the greasepaint and the roar of the crowd. They want to be part of the glory-game however phoney and insignificant it might all appear to be to an outsider.

I challenge Brian Glanville to talk about not only the symptoms, but offer a cure. The final opt-out in his book is inevitable, but isn't the author guilty of the same evasive tactics?

Shankly complains

Coincidentally, on the day that I finished reading this intriguing book, I came across an article written by Bill Shankly in the "Sunday People". Let me put it on record that I have boundless admiration for Shankly — as a manager and as an exceptionally decent human being. In the article, which is headlined "Shunned by the club I loved", Shankly complains of not being asked to become a Liverpool director when he quit as a manager.

I agree with him wholeheartedly, and cannot understand Liverpool's attitude. But then Bill begins to moan about not being invited to travel with the team to away matches.

"I wouldn't have been in the way," he says. Perhaps not. But how many ex-managers sit in team-coaches? How would the present manager — in this case Bob Paisley — feel about it? Perhaps Bill is right when he considers he was shunned by a club he gave such great service to. (Not for nothing, mind you, and he had a bumper well-deserved testimonial).

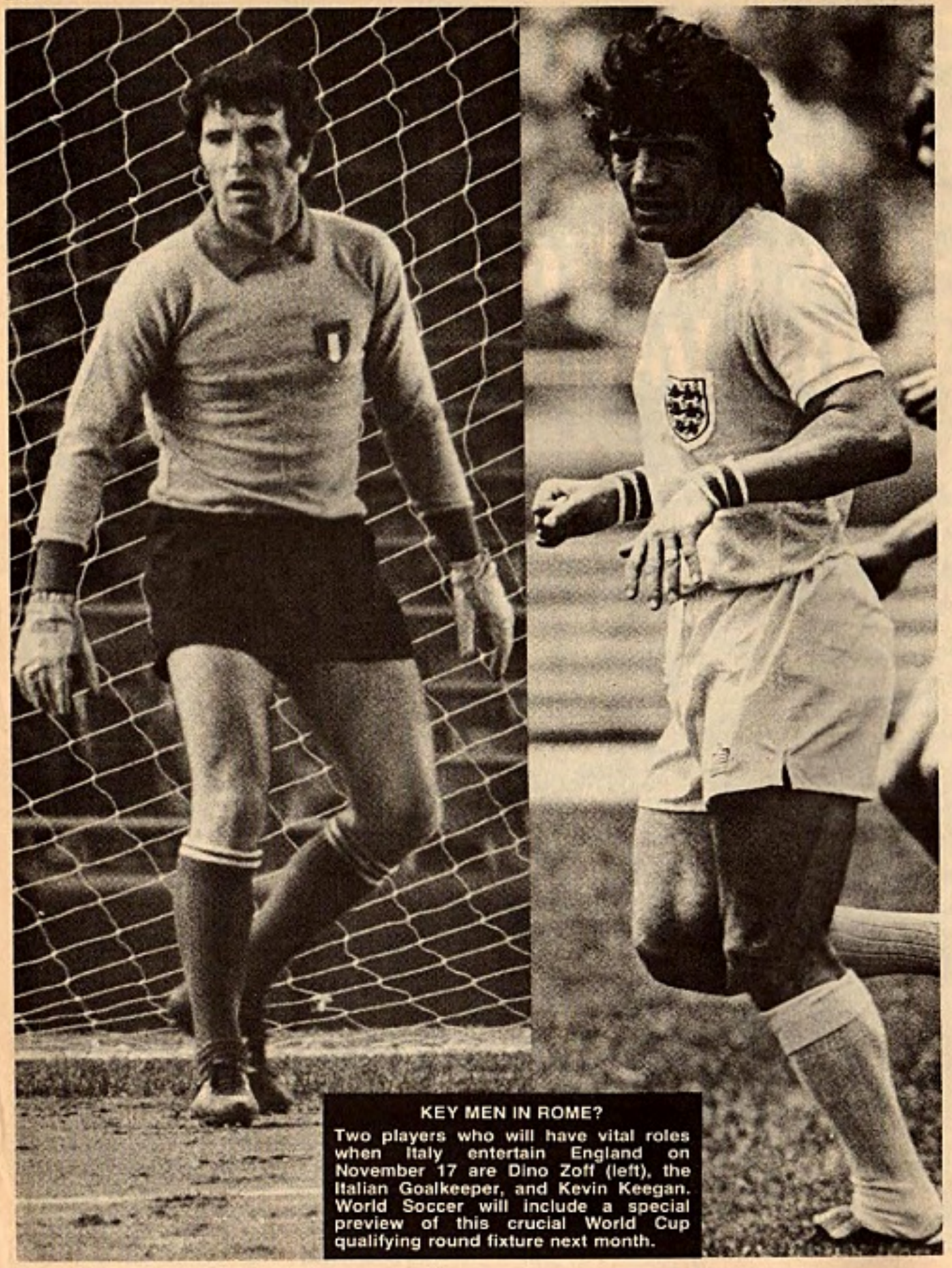
So, here we are! "Real life" imitates the art of Brian Glanville. Shankly will never be a Len Rawlings or a Hughie Gallacher, but he also longs to be part of "the family".

Money in the bank doesn't compensate for lost relationships, lack of involvement, the exhilaration of victories. This is the crucial problem which cannot be solved — not by the Liverpool Football Club or by a highly enjoyable book like "The Dying of the Light".

OTHER BOOKS

INFLATION HAS hit the Rothmans Football Yearbook as it has just about everything else. Three years ago this massive statistical library cost a relatively cheap £1.30. Now the price has risen to £2.50. It still represents value for money with almost 900 pages of fact and figures compiled by World Soccer's Leslie Vernon and Jack Rollin. The Rothmans is now into its seventh edition and provides an accurate service for those who want the sort of information it includes.

The Rothmans is but a baby compared to the International Football Book (Souvenir Press, £2.50) which is into its eighteenth year. Edited by Eric Batty (another World Soccer veteran) it follows its traditional and somewhat ageing format of pictures and articles by a host of world celebrities.



KEY MEN IN ROME?

Two players who will have vital roles when Italy entertain England on November 17 are Dino Zoff (left), the Italian Goalkeeper, and Kevin Keegan. World Soccer will include a special preview of this crucial World Cup qualifying round fixture next month.

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STOCKPORT, ENGLAND

1978 World Cup has been declared of 'National Interest' but ...

WHAT ABOUT THE TEAM?

THE 1978 World Cup finals have been declared of "national interest" by the military government which took over in Argentina in March and which has since then directly taken over the complete running of the event. This should guarantee a well organised, if not lavish, World Cup in Argentina.

This did produce the expected power struggle between the government's World Cup committee and that constituted by the Argentine FA some time ago — two entities which were now working along the same lines. The government appeared to have won — leaving the FA merely as representatives to FIFA — but an announced press conference on the matter (just at press time) was cancelled at the last moment due to the assassination of the government committee's president, General Omar Actis.

Building of new stadiums in Mendoza, Cordoba and Mar del Plata is progressing slowly under direct government supervision. Funds trickled through to the builders only very slowly during the last government — but everything should be ready on schedule.

A government owned colour TV channel company has been created for the 1978 World Cup — there is no colour TV in the country yet — and loans of up to 70 per cent of the cost (at exceedingly low interest rates) will be given for the building of hotels at World Cup centres as there is presently a shortage of accommodation.

Funds are firstly coming from 5 per cent of the take of the government run football pools (which pay out only 40 per cent in winnings) and then from World Cup advertising (on TV and elsewhere) which will also be sold by the government.

Not yet started are improvements to World Cup stadiums in Rosario and Buenos Aires (River Plate's and Velez Sarsfield's) but this will be done soon and it appears that these stadiums will not be used for league matches from next season until after the World Cup.

What has not, however, been declared of national interest is Argentina's soccer team and the country's high hopes of winning their first ever World Cup are flying away in more senses than one.

by Eric Weil

Shortly after the end of this season's First Division championship, in August, Mario Kempes (forward), Miguel Brindisi (half), Norberto Alonso and Hector Scotta (forwards) — all experienced internationals — were sold to European clubs and there, one could well say, went the backbone of Argentina's national side. A little earlier Ortiz (forward) and Paolino (defence), who were also in the national squad, had gone abroad.

National team coach Luis Menotti has said that he will not pick players for the World Cup who are playing for clubs abroad (as was the case in 1974) and that he feels players cannot be stopped from going to foreign clubs where they can earn more money and while their clubs have to sell to make ends meet . . . . and that little would be gained by banning transfers abroad.

Argentine FA president Alfredo Cantilo did say however that by January 1 a definite World Cup squad will have to be chosen and Menotti will have to get assurance from the players (and their clubs) that they will not go abroad — although I venture to say that such an assurance would be worth little.

Rumoured

Relations between Menotti and the FA have been tense for some time and more than once it has been rumoured that the only reason he has not been sacked is that his contract runs until after the World Cup and the FA has not got enough money for his severance pay.

Disagreement was chiefly over the FA's handling of rows between coach and clubs who do not want to release players for national team duty; over the hasty cancellation of Argentina's participation in a junior international tournament in France earlier this year after the players had requested higher bonuses; over the FA's refusal to allow Menotti to travel to Brazil to take charge of the "Rest of the World" selection which played a series of games there in June and over the cancelled tour of Europe scheduled for September which, Menotti maintained, was absolutely essential for his World Cup preparations.

Mario Kempes, this season's leading first division scorer, 1974 World Cup player and one of Argentina's most experienced internationals, has been transferred to Valencia for a reported 600,000 dollars after a vote of Rosario Central club members decided that he could go.

The latter was not entirely the fault of the present FA authorities. Last year two FA officials spent some time in Europe to fix up games and although on their return they announced that some 30 games had been arranged, it now appeared that they had been more intent on tourism. When the FA tried to confirm dates recently, they received one negative reply after another and the tour was off.

Menotti was allowed to go to Yugoslavia however — after a first refusal — to watch the final stages of the European Nations Cup. He returned with the idea that Argentine players at his disposal were better than those of the European teams he had seen, but they were not so inclined to accept discipline and hard work. He did think Argentina had an important advantage however. While his squad's average age was only 22 and would be 24 by the time the World Cup came around, Europe's leading teams — the four finalists he had seen in Yugoslavia — were much older and would be past their best in 1978.

This was before the recent exodus however which may leave his team young, but also inexperienced.

Meanwhile Argentina is looking for rivals to gain experience. This year the national team has done reasonably well with wins in the Soviet Union and Poland the highlight (but half of that team has now emigrated) and second place behind Brazil in the Atlantic Cup tournament (in which Uruguay and Paraguay were the other participants).

The team was beginning to take on a more settled look under Menotti, but the coach insists they need more matches outside South America.

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ENGLAND REQUIRE GOALS, GOALS, GOALS

OCTOBER 13 sees the Finns at Wembley, the Scots in Czechoslovakia, and the form forecast must in each case be a comfortable home win; though more comfortable for the English than the Czechs. What England needs is enough goals to give the Italians a complex. What the Scots need is some inspired tactical way of dealing with a Czech team which, in the European Championship, reached heights of which no recent Scottish team has been capable of scaling.

Scotland's task, though huge, is not hopeless, but it is sad that they must confront it without Billy Bremner. Whether the Billy Bremner of today, a veteran now, would be capable of giving them the spark, leadership and animus they require may be open to doubt, but it is beyond doubt that no other present player could do so.

Thanks to the enterprise of their manager, Jezek, who endured criticism and derision to rebuild the Czech team in the image of Total Football, which he'd studied while managing The Hague in Holland, the Czechs now are a marvellously modern team.

Moreover, they have considerable depth. When they opened the season last August with a friendly against Juventus in Turin, they were able to allow themselves the luxury of not bringing on the attacking right-back Pivarnik, scorer of their eventual equaliser, until the second half, and of not bringing on Svehlik, scorer of their first goal in last June's Final, till later still. Slasny, a newcomer, was introduced to the attack. Neither Capkovic nor Ondrus, the splendid centre-halves, played at all.

Throw

The Czechs certainly play a version, and an animated one, of Total Football, though they have no attacking sweeper in the manner of Beckenbauer or Blankenburg. It is simply that they throw men forward from defence all the time, whether it be Pivarnik and Gogh along the flanks, or the mighty Ondrus, from the middle.

Much the same may be said for the way the Yugoslavs played against West Germany in the semi-final in Belgrade, but they overdid it. One more established defender at the back would have made all the difference in the world, especially when Josip Katalinski, that inveterate attacker, went up on his sorties.

Don Revie spoke to me in the summer of the possibility of using two attacking sweepers, let alone one, but I think it is becoming increasingly clear that Total Football resides in the mind rather than in any strict, strategic disposition.

When Dr. Willy Meisl conceived the Whirl 21 years ago, he simply thought of players attacking from any position, with other players dropping back to fill their place. If you do have a Franz Beckenbauer then a fluid sweeper is clearly in order, but if you don't, it doesn't really matter. It is the principle that counts.

Scotland, in common with the vast bulk of our teams, are a tactically orthodox team, which doesn't mean to say they are to be despised. They have excellent midfield footballers in such as Rioch, Archie Gemmill — the Derby County pair — and Masson. But they do lack real surprise up the front.

The Yugoslavia national team. Back row left to right: Bogicevic, Svilar, Peruzovic, Rajkovic, Muzinic, Hadziabdic. Front: Zungul, Amersek, Halilhodzic, Jerkovic, Surjak.

by Brian Glanville

Once upon a time, the strength of the Palmeiras team of Sao Paolo was its midfield pair of Dudu and Ademir Da Guia, son of the great full-back Domingas of 1938 World Cup renown. Now at the age of 37 Dudu finds himself the manager, suddenly catapulted up from the less demanding world of the reserve team, while at 34, Ademir is playing better than ever as an attacking sweeper.

Splendid

I am very pleased for both of them. Da Guia I have always admired from afar; bronze-haired, coffee coloured, lanky and loping, an artistic, unhurried player, criticised for his alleged slowness, playing only part of a single World Cup game but playing it with distinction; to be exact, the third place match in Munich against Poland.

In 1965 it really looked as though he and Dudu would have the chance to do for Brazil in the coming World Cup what they had so long done for Palmeiras. Brazil made a most successful European tour, winning in Russia, with these two in splendid form. By 1966, however, they had both been cast aside. Neither got into the World Cup party, let alone played a game, a fact which puzzled me, given the impoverished performance by Brazil in England.

Palmeiras, meanwhile, have almost wholly rebuilt their team, having sold Leivinha and Luis Perieira to Atletico Madrid. They did tolerably well under the managership of Dino Sani, a World Cup player of 1958 and a Milan player of the early 1960s, but the fans were displeased with the way the team was winning its matches, often thanks to the goalkeeping of Leon and the skills of Ademir Da Guia, and he was put out to graze, Dudu taking his place.

Midfield

Under Dudu the team has found style as well as success, winning the Championship of Sao Paolo, with Da Guia loping everywhere; now in defence, now in midfield, now, most unwontedly, up the front, scoring goals. I have always been sorry that he should never have established himself outside his native Brazil, but at least the career has been long as well as distinguished.

His prowess has led Brazilian critics to sigh for the era of Pele, to which Ademir belonged. I myself sigh for the day when Pele will go into the slums and stews of Harlem, rather than continue to be Mr. Nice Guy for the WASPS of the New York suburbs.

I still believe that the development of the NASL in America is a dangerously lopsided one, and that only when the blacks are inspired to play soccer will the native game develop in earnest. At present it remains no more than a parasite on the Football League.

The Coach

Greying hair, narrow eyes,
Rasping voice,
A man in a tracksuit
Without a tracksuit figure
Stands at the centre of things
While other men jump and run, stop and start,
Obeying the silent snap
Of his invisible whip.

Lonely, suspicious, authoritative,
He keeps things moving –
no place for humour, this, no time for jokes –
Until at last the panting turns to retching
And a mirthless smile freezes his lips.
They have given all they can give.
But he will master pity and demand more.
The pain is his, too.

For a second the yellow sun holds him,
Chin bulging, right arm raised.

Later, when the season turned to ashes,
They shrugged and said of him
Well, he made us train on time.

Paul Gardner
March 76

To look though its line-ups is to go through a list of These You Have Loved. The British pros have sturdily bridged the gap for the American clubs, but I wish I could see clear signs of the end of the gap; and the bridge.

Pele is being paid four and a half million dollars for his three years in New York, after which, say some who know him, he will find it very hard to retire and to cut himself off from the adulation which has been his for so long. It would be great pity, and a piece of arrant short sightedness if, during the short period that is left to him in the States, he is not used to promote and proseletyse in Harlem.

Audience

The white suburbanites may well provide an audience for the future professional game, but it can hardly become another ice hockey, a game played predominantly for American clubs by Canadian professionals. At some point it must begin a genuine, organic development, just as every other soccer playing country in the world has experienced.

Whether Pele himself is really keen to bring the game to the underprivileged blacks is, however, a matter for speculation. His assiduous cultivation of his image in New York, his cautious avoidance of anything that might be in the slightest controversial, suggests otherwise.

When I spoke to him last summer in Redondo Beach, Chelsea's Charlie Cooke had just thoroughly enjoyed a coaching session with dozens of clean limbed, well nourished, fresh faced American boys, organised by the Los Angeles Aztecs for whom he was then playing. He was insistent that America would in due time get soccer "right" as they had over the years got everything else "right", and they may well do. I should just like to see the process shortened.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I WAS shown your September edition of "World Soccer" and specifically the item written by Mr Brian Glanville on "Zico was a big disappointment".

2. Whilst we all appreciate that Mr Glanville has his platform — "The Brian Glanville Platform", and that apparently he knows something about Italian football, I do wish he would stop writing inaccurate reports on South American Football and Brazilian in particular.

3. Obviously Mr Glanville has little or no knowledge on Brazilian football and to illustrate this, I would point out the following inaccuracies in the stated article:

(i) "deep-dropping centre-forward for his club, Flamengo of Rio . . .", — Zico is not, and never was, a centre-forward. He has always played "up front" for Flamengo with the no. 8 shirt — the club centre-forward is (and has been for the past 15 months) Luizinho.

(ii) Re Brandão, ". . . who feels he belongs to another era . . ." this is obviously a comment made by a Rio de Janeiro pressman — it is well known the aversion that the Rio Press have to Brandao (primarily a São Paulo Trainer) because: (a) he has won all Brazil's matches (bar one draw) since his appointment; (b) he is outspoken about the press, and (c) because he is not using predominantly Rio players in Brazil team.

(iii) Jairzinho . . . "on the right wing", Jairzinho has been playing centre-forward for Cruzeiro ever since he joined them. He and Palinha are operating in a "double centre-forward" role for the club.

(iv) The caption to the published photograph: "Brazil manager Brandao . . ." The picture in fact shows "Raul Carlesso" (physical training instructor) during a training session held in 1974.

(v) Finally, Mr Glanville asserts that it was "the new right winger Gil who laid open Capello's knee"; . . . "a wound necessitating nine stitches" (every time I read about this incident, the number of stitches increases) in fact the culpable player was "*left winger Lula*" — who himself had eight stitches in the calf wound made by Capello and retaliated cutting Capello's knee (Lula was sent off for this retaliation, but Capello received no such punishment for the original foul).

4. In this case, I must admit I did not see the game, and am relying on second hand reports of the incident — however manager Brandão (in a private conversation with me) confirmed Lula's injury and the sending off — therefore I believe the above version is much more accurate than that of Mr Glanville, who tends rather to see things through a red white and green tint.

P. J. PULLEN

News from West Germany ... by Arthur Rotmil

Early shocks in Bundesliga

THE FOURTEENTH Bundesliga season began with several surprising results, which promise another closely fought campaign. Cup winners Hamburger SV slumped to a 3-4 home defeat against newly promoted Borussia Dortmund, the champions Borussia Mönchengladbach had to be content with a 1-1 home draw against modest MSV Duisburg, whilst European Cup holders Bayern Munich struggled on their own ground against Fortuna Düsseldorf and were 0-1 behind at half time, before Bernd Dürnberger and Gerd Müller secured a 2-1 win. But in the next round Bayern crashed at Duisburg by 2-5!

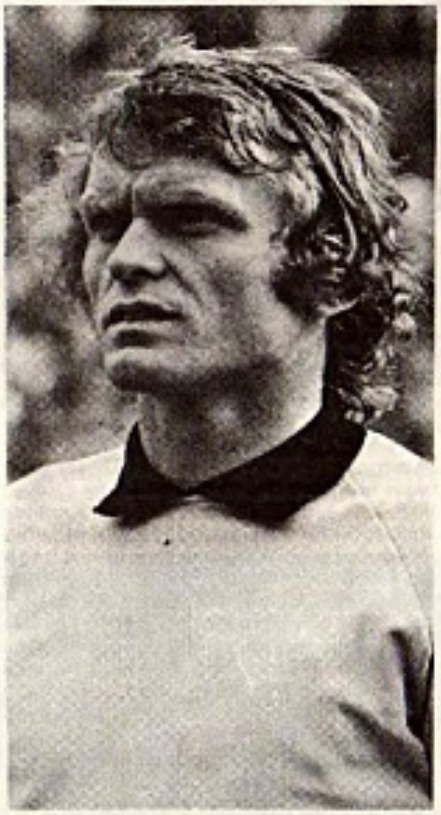
The fans must have anticipated the excitement, for on the first day 260,000 came to see the nine games and 270,000 on the second Saturday witnessed eight games (VfL Bochum v. Karlsruher SC was postponed).

The most intriguing question millions of German soccer followers are asking is this: Will the remarkable stranglehold on the championship as exercised in the past eight years by Borussia Mönchengladbach and Bayern Munich at last be broken? Since 1968, when FC Nürnberg (later relegated!) won the title, Bayern Munich and Borussia Mönchengladbach have each won the Bundesliga four times!

Successors

Now, of course, a number of teams are again put forward as their likely successors, but whether they have the talent individually and collectively, the organisation, the experience and above all, the consistency of either Gladbach or Bayern, that is quite another matter. Hamburg, seen by many as championship material have stuttered at home in the opening fixture; FC Cologne now led by the brilliant tactician and motivator Hennes Weisweiler, have the men and the potential to become "Meister", but somehow one cannot really see them as being ready for the highest honours, just yet.

Still, Cologne, who hold the best overall record of all *Bundesliga* clubs, have made the best start since the very first season in which the National League was founded in 1963-64, when they became champions. Now, Cologne were the only team to collect maximum points from the opening three fixtures and thus, as I write, headed the table.



West German goalkeeper Sepp Maier.

The promoted clubs, like Borussia Dortmund, former winners of the European Cup Winners Cup, and the FC Saarbrücken, have made great efforts to sign top players to insure their stay in the upper sphere. Dortmund engaged the former international centre forward Erwin Kostedde, who was unhappy with Hertha Berlin and was looking for fresh pastures.

Kostedde became an instant hit with the Dortmund fans when he scored six goals in the 10-0 Cup triumph over hapless amateurs from Concordia Haaren. This coloured striker is supported by another from Rotweiss Essen. The tandem Kostedde-Lippens will cause nightmares to most defenders this term.

Saarbrücken's "catch" is the famous Yugoslav schemer Jovan Acimovic, who left Red Star Belgrade to follow his numerous compatriots to the "Golden West". Saarbrücken also bought the French international forward Marc Berdoll.

Two well known goalkeepers also changed clubs: Norbert Nigbur, discarded by Schalke even signed on to collect the "dole". Some 2,500 Marks (approx. £555) in unemployment benefit was paid out to this talented custodian, before Hertha Berlin stepped in and bought him off Schalke for £122,000.

Schalke in turn grabbed another Yugoslav international, Enver Maric, well known in Germany for keeping goal in all six World Cup matches Yugoslavia played in the 1974 final series. There are now 33 foreigners active in the *Bundesliga* of whom nine are Danes, nine Yugoslavs, six Swedes, three Austrians, two Dutch, and one each from Belgium, Ghana, France, and Hungary. The only clubs without any foreign players are Eintracht Frankfurt and VfL Bochum. The rest can field these "mercenaries":

Mercenaries

Cologne: Topalovic (Yugoslavia), Van Gool (Belgium), Larsen (Denmark).

Bayern Munich: Andersson and Torstensson (both Sweden), Seneca (Denmark).

Borussia Mönchengladbach: Simonsen and Nielsen (both Denmark).

Hamburger SV: Kovacevic (Yugoslav), Ettmayer (Austria), Björnmose (Denmark).

Eintracht Brunswick: Popivoda and Ristic (both Yugoslavs).

Schalke: Oblak and Maric (both Yugoslavs).

Kaiserslautern: Hellstroem and Sandberg (both Sweden).

MSV Duisburg: Bregman (Holland) and Jara (Austria).

Fortuna Düsseldorf: Mattson (Sweden) and Hickersberger (Austria).

Werder Bremen: Roentved (Denmark) and Sunday (Ghana).

Saarbrücken: Berdoll (France), Spasowski and Acimovic (both Yugoslavs).

Borussia Dortmund: Varga (Hungary) and Lippens (Holland).

Tennis Borussia Berlin: Wendt (Sweden) and Maras (Yugoslav).

Rotweiss Essen: Lund (Denmark).

Hertha Berlin: Rassmussen (Denmark).

Karlsruher SC: Flindt (Denmark).

Another great milestone in the illustrious career of Franz Beckenbauer, captain of Bayern Munich and of the national side: He was voted Germany's "Footballer of the Year", for the fourth time — which is a record. Previously Franz won the trophy in 1966, 1968 and 1974. With a total of 286 votes Beckenbauer was way out in front of Bonhof (57 votes), Sepp Maier (55), Dieter Müller (45), Peter Nogly (32), Bertie Vogts (28), Rudi Kargus (14), Erich Beer (10) and . . . Gerd Müller with just seven!

VENGLOS QUITS AS INTER RACE AWAY TO BEST EVER START...

Miroslav Gajdusek — a scorer for Dukla.

WITH SLOVAN BRATISLAVA boss Jozef Venglos quitting after failing to persuade his top brass to re-organise the club the way he wanted, neighbours Internacional have got off to the best start, to top the Czech First Division with six points from the four opening games. The jinx on away sides of the last three years or so continues and it seems more than likely that the 1977 champions will get their title away from home.

Inter got off to a good start with their international sweeper Ladislav Jurkemik whacking in a direct free kick early on in the opening game at home to Sparta. They won 3-1.

Next, Inter travelled just up the road to Trnava where Spartak have lost their manager Anton Malatinsky to Dutch club FC Den Haag, and won comfortably by 3-0 before a crowd of 9,361, then at home to another Slovak club VSS Kosice they ran up another win by 4-0 with Jurkemik scoring twice in the last four minutes (one a penalty).

Second place

Top of the table with maximum points, Inter then had to visit Ostrava who sneaked away with the championship last season and who were lying 5th. With the game shown live and in full on TV just under 6,000 paid to see the battle that Ostrava won to move up into second place with five points.

Ladislav Petras, the Inter star centre forward who missed the first three games, was put on by Inter boss Valerian Svec for the final 15 minutes with the team trailing by 2-0 and scored Inter's consolation goal right on the whistle.

Dukla Praha share second place, with Ostrava, assistant manager Josef Masopust taking over at Brno leaving title winner of the sixties Jaroslav Vajvoda to lead the Army team alone. Dukla benefited from the call up to Army service of Slovan's international forward Jan Svehlik who played against England at Wembley and scored the opening goal in the recent European Championship final against West Germany.

Teaming up with Zdenek Nehoda and a promising right winger in Ladislav Vizek, Dukla now appear to have the liveliest attack on paper.

On the opening day they had a big game, at home to Slovan. 7,868 paid for admission (Czech crowds never include season ticket holders so real gates are not known) but this was one of Dukla's best ever crowds for a league game at the rebuilt Juliska stadium, and they saw a goal feast.

Left winger Jan Capkovic put Slovan ahead after only three minutes, but by the interval Stanislav Pelc and Miroslav Gajdusek had put Dukla ahead. Frantisek Stambachr then got two more for Dukla, playing an attacking game from midfield and stopper Karel Dvorak went up to head a fifth. Near the end, Dukla left back Jaroslav Bendl also got amongst the scorers — putting through his own goal to make it 5-2 for Dukla.

Dukla then went off to draw 0-0 at Plzen and beat Zilina 2-1 at home thanks to goals from defenders Vaclav Samek and Ludek Macela, while Nehoda missed a penalty.

Then came another needle game — away (though only about two miles!) to Sparta with more than 18,000 paying to get in. With five points from three games Dukla started well but Pavel Melichar put Sparta ahead from a penalty. Four minutes later Vizek made it 1-1 and when it looked as if Dukla were going to get a vital point, Sparta stopper Oldrich Urban went upfield to get one of the many vital goals he has scored for Sparta and give them a 2-1 win over one of their arch rivals.

Sparta's long standing foe is of course Slavia who engaged Rudolf Svoboda, the outstanding player for LIAZ Jablonec who have been relegated. Slavia started with a 20,000 crowd seeing them beat newly promoted Frydek-Mistek by 2-0, but then away to Slovan three days later they went down 2-1.

Josef Jebavy, a very good old fashioned style inside forward got their consolation goal five minutes from time after Marian Masny and Juraj Novotny had put Slovan into a good lead. Slovan's new boss is Michal Vican, back from Poland where he took Ruch Chorzow to several league titles.

Slavia then dropped a vital home point, 2-2, against Skoda Plzen and then 'won' that point back by drawing away to Zilina.

Sparta look as if they will not have too much trouble staying up, winning their other home game 2-0 against Trencin with their ex-internationals Pavel Stratil and Bohumil Vesely the scorers but away to Teplice they went down 0-1 to a goal scored by Josef Jurkanin, who, a former Sparta player, was hailed as the golden boy of Czech football in his first full season before he faded.

Antonin Panenka tops the scorers list with five goals for Bohemians after missing the first game. At home to Lokomotive Kosice he equalised at 1-1 with a penalty but his midfield colleague in the national team, Josef Moder got the winner for the visitors. Bohemians, who promised a great deal two years ago disappointed last season, their fine football only coming in brief flashes but they did well to draw 1-1 away to Ostrava where another penalty by Panenka earned the point. Then, at home to Frdek-Mistek, Panenka took a hat-trick to give Bohemians their first win by 3-0.

None of the leading strikers are amongst the early pace-makers in the scoring stakes. VSS Kosice's midfield player Jozef Stafura follows Panenka with three goals from four games, a tally equalled by Inter's *libero* Jurkemik. VSS centre forward Dusan Gallis, top scorer last season and the man whose header beat England 2-1 in Brutislava got his first goal of the season in the fourth game watched by only 614 cash customers at home to Trencin.

Brilliant start attacking

REAL MADRID, experimenting with a new-style attack, look more than ever the team to beat after a brilliant beginning to the season.

The first match was at Coruna in the Teresa Herrera trophy. Opponents were old rivals Penarol of Montevideo, but no longer the team who were once such a threatening feature of the final rounds of the South American Club Cup and the world club cup.

Talent

All they have now is a good goalkeeper in skipper Walter Corbo and Fernando Morena, whose talent, most coaches now feel, has been squandered by too many years finding the easy routes to goal in the Uruguayan league.

But there was nothing easy against Madrid, who had new Dane Henning Jensen making his debut in the No 7 jersey which once was the permanent property of Amancio. And it was the former Borussia Moenchengladbach striker who stole the show.

After just 18 minutes he slipped clear of the defence to lay on No 1 for Carlos Santillana. Thirteen minutes later the roles were reversed. Santillana turned a cross through for Jensen to beat Corbo. A minute later Carlos Guerini cut through on the left and Santillana headed another.

It was still 3-0 at half time, and though Penarol hit back with one goal from Silva and an own goal from Gregorio Benito, Madrid increased their lead in spectacular style through Guerini — again made by Jensen — and the Dane once more.

Ability

"We slowed up after we had them at 3-0," said manager Miljan Miljanic afterwards. "I didn't like that part of it at all."

But he was pleased with the new-style attack. Last season Madrid relied overmuch on the ability in the air of Santillana and Roberto Martinez. Now the latter, once a favourite of Miljanic who was responsible for his signing, has been left out, with the naturalised Argentinian Guerini taking his No 11 shirt and mirroring the cut and thrust style of Jensen on the right.

Santillana becomes once more the sole apex of the attack, and that's clearly been to his liking.

In the final Madrid met new South American champions Cruzeiro, who had beaten European Cup semi-finalist PSV Eindhoven 2-0 in their semi-final. That had been a fairly peaceful affair, but the final was anything but.

There was far too much niggle, with too many late tackles going unchecked, and it was typical that the goals — from Pirri and Guerini — were both from the penalty spot. Along the way Cruzeiro lost the once great Jairzinho — now an aimless wanderer up front — who was sent off for butting Benito after the rugged Madrid stopper was involved in a scuffle with Joaozinho.

Cruzeiro coach Zeze Moreira claimed afterwards that an early expulsion for Benito would have cooled tempers, but didn't dispute that Madrid were also the better team on the day, even if this time Jensen wasn't so outstanding. Teams:

Madrid: Miguel Angel; Sol, Benito (Uria sub 75), Pirri, Camacho; Breitner, del Bosque, Velazquez; Jensen, Santillana, Guerini.

Cruzeiro: Raul; Isodoro, Morais, Osiris, Vanderley; Piazza (Silva 88), Ronaldo (Valdo 88), Ze Carlos; Eduardo, Jairzinho, Joaozinho.

In the third place match PSV beat Penarol on penalties after a 1-1 draw. Harry Lubse scored for an Edstroem-less PSV, the inevitable Morena for Penarol.

And the Uruguayans, now under Roque Maspoli again, the 1950 World Cup goalkeeper who was in charge of the 1966 World Club Cup winners, were Madrid's opening opponents again in Malaga, when the Costa del Sol tournament got under way.

Memory

The end result was the same again, even if the score was slightly different. This time it was 4-0 to Madrid, though the Uruguayans played as if the memory of Coruna was all too clear still. Benito, whose incident with Jairzinho cost a broken nose, missed this match which saw the goals falling to Pirri (pen), Santillana (two more) and Guerini.

Malaga swamped Torpedo Moscow 5-2 the next evening but were no match for Madrid in the final. The Madristas claimed their first overall victory in the competition by winning 3-0, taking revenge for their only previous final appearance, in 1963, when Malaga beat them 3-1. Teams:

Madrid: Miguel Angel; Uria, Sol, Pirri, Camacho; Breitner, del Bosque, Velazquez (Rubinan 73); Jensen (Roberto ht), Santillana, Guerini.

Malaga: Corral (Melendez 54); Arazez, Macias, Vilanova, Laguna; Miguel, Bustillo, Requejo; Quevedo, Castronovo, Esteban.

Ahead

Madrid, again showing no sign of missing Günter Netzer, were ahead in just six minutes. It was so simple, and it all started from the cultured left foot of that deft midfielder, Manolo Velazquez, back in favour now the West German has left for Grasshoppers Zurich.

He slid the ball out to Guerini and Santillana put his head to the chip before anyone else moved. Adventurous full back Paco Uria added the other two goals in the second half.

Torpedo smashed five more goals past poor old Penarol without reply in the third place match.

Debut

Madrid finally came home at last to start the season in Chamartin on August 31, with the Ramon Grosso benefit match against Slavia Prague. There was a crowd of close on 100,000 to pay tribute to the man who took over the No 9 shirt from Alfredo di Stefano in 1964, and they weren't disappointed, either by the standard of football, or the display of their new favourite, Jensen, making his home debut.

The Dane was just too much for the Czechs, even though they had the snappy advantage of a fourth minute goal from Jerhavy. Jensen equalised after 24 minutes, Santillana got another just before the break, and Jensen completed his hat-trick with second half goals in the 61st and 74th minutes.

The Czechs finished with several men limping, and coach Jaroslav Jarev didn't mince words when asked his opinion of Madrid: "Santillana, Breitner and Jensen were all very good.

Coaching

"But I don't think there's much class about the defenders. If there were they wouldn't need to be so rough."

Grosso retires now, presumably to join Madrid's vast junior coaching staff which provides trainers for so much of the league. For instance, six second division clubs have former Madrid men as coaches. Joseito is back at Granada, Rafa at Calo Sotelo, di Stefano at Castellon, Hector Rial at Coruna, Vicente Miera at relegated Gijon and Enrique Meteos at Cadiz.

Mateos had 17 years as a goal poaching inside or outside right, winning two Champions' Cup medals with Madrid in the late 1950s before going to Sevilla, Betis, Huelva and Torrevelaga after a disagreement with Miguel Munoz. Seven years ago, at 35, he spent a summer in the United States and then it was back home for a career as a coach.

Cadiz could well be in the running for promotion this season, so it's an important time for Mateos, who no longer looks back so bitterly at his parting from Madrid.

for new style, Real Madrid

But upset with Madrid, over an entirely different matter, are Valencia. Their president, Jose Ramos Costa, was more than a little annoyed when Madrid took Jensen from Borussia, because than meant the West Germans were virtually bound to put an end to talks about letting Rainer Bonhof go.

Lost

"It was magnificent opportunity lost," Bonhof admitted. "I was ready to move and I'm sure I would have done well. "When it was first suggested that I might move, I asked Netzer for advice. He told me he didn't think I'd have any problem adapting. I think It's not so easy for a forward to make a name for himself in Spain, but that it's different for a defender.

"I know Valencia don't have the reputation of Madrid or Barcelona but Netzer assured me they're a good club in good hands who would be in the running for a title. I think I could have scored some goals too, because I don't think Spanish goalkeepers are much use when it comes to long swerving drives from outside the penalty box.

Happy

"In West Germany everyone knows about me. But in Spain it might have been quite a novelty. I suppose I'm happy enough to stay with Borussia. If I'm going to stay in Germany I would rather be with them than anyone else."

Why did Borussia let Jensen go?

"Well, his wife didn't like Germany much and wanted either to go back to Denmark or go somewhere else entirely. I'm sure he'll do well for Madrid and we'll miss him badly at Borussia. More than we missed Netzer, I think . . ."

Not that Valencia will go short of a new foreigner. For £325,000 they've bought a man who is to my mind one of the most powerfully impressive spearheads in the world in Mario Kempes, the 22-year-old Argentinian with legs like tree trunks.

His old club, Rosario Central, went through the motions of a poll of members before finally agreeing to the deal, but only 1,200 of their 35,000 members bothered to vote. They knew the club needed the money and that was that. What did upset a few people in Argentin — and one of them was national coach Luis Cesar Menotti — was the loss of a key man in the build up for the 1978 World Cup.

The Kempes deal came soon after the loss of Norberto Alonso (River Plate) to Marseille, and Miguel Angel Brindisi (Huracan) to Las Palmas. The Argentinia FA announced soon after that no player under 28 would be allowed to go abroad until after the next World Cup — a classic case of shutting the stable door, etc, etc.

Valencia's attempts to smuggle Kempes into Spain were laughable. They hoped that no journalist would recognise him and general secretary Pasieguito played a silly game of ducks and drakes with the Press at the airport before admitting reluctantly that a deal was on.

The reason he was so cagey was that at the time no settlement had been reached with ousted Salif Keita. The Malian wanted his free transfer and a lump sum in lieu of the extra year on his contract. Valencia were stalling and held on successfully until Sporting Lisbon came alone to sign the lithe, black striker who never really put it together in Spain.

Reporters

Kempes, who has played for Argentina 27 times, boasted to reporters that he would have retired if Rosario hadn't let him go and that, now he had arrived, Valencia would win the league. We shall see.

Sensibly they're still interested in signing Juan Antonio Deusto to cover their weak spot between the posts and it's even been suggested that a swap, Johnny Rep for Bonhof, could be on the cards. But that seems more wishful thinking on behalf of the large chunk of fans who haven't been too impressed with the Dutchman, even though he was their top scorer last year.

Strengthen

Also trying to strengthen their defence are Zaragosa. Their priority is to obtain clearance from the FA and FIFA to sign runaway Hungarian Josef Horvath, who sought asylum with his wife in Switzerland 20 months ago.

Horvath, former Ujpest captain, is willing to take up Spanish nationality and since he's stateless anyway, Zaragoza hope he can be fitted into their team after his international suspension is completed in December.

Meanwhile, in case that falls through, coach Lucien Muller has been inquiring after two more Portuguese, one of whom might slot neatly alongside Jordao. One man is a former Benfica colleague, Vitor Batista, the other is Fraguito of Sporting Lisbon.

But a man who wouldn't mind going the other way is Barcelona's Argentinian, Juan Carlos Heredia. His late return from holidays cost a £1,000 fine from Rinus Michels, who was unimpressed with the player's claim that his baby son had been seriously ill.

"If the club are going to be like that I want to get away," said Heredia. "I spent a very enjoyable time at Porto before I came to Barcelona, and I'd love to go back there some time, even though they couldn't offer me the cash I get now. Money isn't everything."

Passport

Hugo Sotil, arrived back even later, claiming that the Peruvian tax investigators had taken his passport for some time and that his lawyer had spoken to Barcelona. "If he can't get here that's his problem," said new general secretary Juan Granados, and confirmed that in Sotil's case the fine would be £1,400.

Finally, the season's not begun competitively yet, but already we have a retirement — FIFA referee Antonio Rigo, one of Spain's most controversial figures.

"I've quit," he said, "because I'm fed up with all the injustices I've had to put up with. Spanish soccer has the worst refereeing standards in Europe and no-one seems to do anything about it."

At least that spared Rigo the indignity of the pre-season announcements about which referees, at the clubs' demand, will NOT be called on to control games involving these teams.

Each club can name up to five referees. Top of the distate charts is World Cup referee Pablo Sanchez Ibanez. Atletico Madrid, Valencia, Betis, Celta and Elche won't be seeing him this season.

News from SPAIN by Keir Radnedge

News from France by Andre Duclos

Rocheteau — such an exciting and gifted talent

THIS SEASON, all roads seem to lead to Sofia. Saint Etienne played CSKA there in the first leg of the first round of the European Cup, while on October 9, France themselves are due there to play Bulgaria in the World Cup. Bulgaria, who eliminated France in a play-off from the World Cup finals of 1962.

One thing we do know; that the attacking Bulgarian left-back - Vassiliev, a goal scorer as well as an overlapper, will have plenty to do in defence, given that his opponent, fitness permitting, will be the formidable Dominique Rocheteau, surely the most exciting French forward since Raymond Kopa; who, be it remembered, himself began as a right winger.

It is said that little Serge Chiesa, the Lyon forward, has continued to insist that he will not play for the international team. Modestly, he says that there is no evident place for him, in any case, what with Rocheteau on the right wing, where he now tends to play for Lyon, and young Michel Platini coming up fast as a midfield player. In fact we all know that Serge Chiesa remains one of the most gifted footballers in France, one for whom room could always surely be made, though perhaps his lack of physical power would count against him in what seems likely to become a robust game.

Opening friendly

Will Michel Hidalgo, the new manager, continue to bank heavily on Saint Etienne players, as his predecessor, the Rumanian Stefan Kovacs, refused to do? You will recall that Kovacs always insisted that Saint Etienne just weren't the same without their two foreign stars, Curkovic in goal and Piazza at centre-back. Hidalgo showed he disagreed by choosing no fewer than eight of their players in the squad for the opening friendly game against Borussia Munchengladbach. Neither of the Revellis was among them, and both must surely have a powerful claim. Each distinguished himself in that pulsating final of the European Cup against Bayern Munich.

Hidalgo said that rather than Munchengladbach he would have preferred a warming up match against England. Clearly it was too early in the season for that. It remains to be seen whether the amiable Hidalgo can give the French national team the electric charge which Robert Herbin seems quite capable of applying to Saint Etienne. Such stimulation is of course never as easy for an international manager, seeing his players so rarely, as it is for a club manager. If the team is to be so largely Saint Etienne in basis — which remains to be seen of course — prhaps the logical thing would be to put Herbin alongside Hidalgo for the occasion, though no doubt such a step would raise certain problems of rank and prestige.

Marius Tresor, the black defender who has done so well with Marseilles, has said he feels most optimistic about the World Cup, and that he looks upon it as an athlete would regard the Olympic Games. Lacking Piazza, an Argentinian cap, it is a fine thing to have as fluent and versatile a player as Tresor in the defence.

In Bastia, they have yet another Yugoslav international goalkeeper; 28-year-old Ognjan Petrovic has arrived from Red Star, very much at the behest of Dragan Dzajic. Dzajic has had a very happy year with Bastia, and he urged the club to sign Petrovic, European Nations Cup goalkeeper for his country, and one with whom Dzajic himself played ten years at Red Star. Previously the excellent Pantelic, Nations Cup keeper for the Yugoslavs in 1968, played for the Corsican club. Among other things, Dzajic has undertaken to teach Petrovic the popular local sport of *boules*, at which Pantelic became highly adept.

Massive attendances

Dragan Dzajic made an excellent start to the season, especially when he helped Bastia to beat Nantes 3-0, scoring the first goal from the penalty spot. But to play in front of a 6,000 crowd must have been something of an anticlimax after the massive attendances of the European Championship.

Talking of Yugoslavs, that star of the 1964 Olympic Games tournament, Ivica Osim, has stayed in France and is playing again for Strasbourg. The lanky Osim worked his wiles in a Second Division match against Chaumont, thrashed 9-0. Osim scored only once, but needless to say he was among the best players on the field, the true architect of victory from his position in the engine room.

The coup of the season so far has clearly been the signing by Olympique Marseille of Norberto Alonso, the splendid Argentinian inside-left from River Plate whom, for reasons obscure to us, was left out of their World Cup team in 1974 after having played superbly on tour the previous year, an inside-left with a magnificent shot in his left foot, and great skill besides. Meanwhile Marseille have yet another new manager; as you may know, they change them all the time, allegedly on the principle that a new manager can galvanise the team to greater things, but only for a while. The newcomer is in fact a veteran of the game in José Arribas, who has served these many years at Nantes.

Marius Tresor, a shrewd young man, gave the opinion that Arribas was listened to more attentively than his predecessor Jules Zvunka, whose problem was that he had actually been a player with many of the players he then had to control. It still seems a little hard on Zvunka, who had after all taken the club to victory in the French Cup. Arribas trained the Marseille players very hard in the summer, but always with the ball.

Will Jean-Marc Guillou play in Sofia? The Nice half-back, the most elegant of all our midfield players, had his season undermined by injury in 1975/6, after at long last leaving Angers. He may now be into his thirties but, as he showed in the early League matches, he remains a formidable force.

From Eric Weil

CRUZEIRO GO LOOKING FOR GOALS BUT ARE EXCEPTIONAL

CONTRARY TO general belief and in spite of Brazil's prominent position in the soccer world, the present standard of Brazilian club soccer is low. And another surprising fact — when one thinks of Brazil's great forwards and their fluid attacking style — is that league games are generally defence minded, drab and with few goals.

But Cruzeiro won this year's Libertadores Cup (the South American club championship) for the first time since 1962 for Brazil because they are an exception and by far the outstanding club in Brazil at the moment.

Cruzeiro, coached by Zeze Moreyra, also brought a breath of fresh air into the usually defensive minded Libertadores Cup, scoring the unusually high number of 46 goals (17 against) in their 13 matches in which they were only beaten once (by River Plate in the second leg of the final) and shouldn't have been. Some people called Cruzeiro's play "black magic", but they only played the game as it was originally intended to be played — looking for goals all the time and trying to outwit opponents with tactics designed to create rather than destroy. Simple, isn't it!

The team's strong men are defender Nelinho who is becoming a legend for his precise shooting and free kick goals which have been instrumental in the Brazilian national team's recent successes also; experienced and much capped Wilson Piazza in midfield; Jairzinho, another World Cup player whose return following a not too happy stay in France, has added experience and goals — he was leading Cup scorer with 14; Palinha, the team's top scorer (12 in the Cup) whom no defence seems to be able to control and who has a knack of scoring at the right moment (also for Brazil). And Cruzeiro, as well as Brazil, lost another outstanding forward on the way — Roberto Batata, killed in a car crash in Brazil during the Libertadores Cup.

Weakness

Like most Brazilian teams however, Cruzeiro's weakness is in defence where the others are not as safe as Nelinho. In the middle Morais plays strongly but lacks technique and the other middle man, Darcy Menezes, tends to wilt under pressure. Vanderley tends to go up and leave open spaces behind him.

Cruzeiro play 4-3-4 and their mechanism is simple. When defending, the three halves and Joaozinho fall back, but when they have the ball, Eduardo, Joaozinho and Nelinho join the forwards in all-out attack. In a word, they defend and attack with eight men, using up more energy than most Brazilian teams, but they also seem to be better physically prepared for it. And another thing that makes them stand out among Brazilian teams is that they show more fight and can play dirty when necessary.

Cruzeiro, who gave their first team players a 3,600 dollar bonus for winning the Cup, have reached agreement with European Cup holders Bayern Munich to play home and away matches for the unofficial world championship, probably in December and January.

Meanwhile Cruzeiro's intervention in the Libertadores Cup caused a crisis involving the Minas Gerais Football Federation and the Brazilian Sports Confederation as the Minas Gerais State championship was constantly changed to accommodate Cruzeiro. As a result, the other big state club, Atletico, withdrew from the league and the state's legislature has appointed a probe committee which threatens to request federal intervention for the league. Matters were further complicated when both Cruzeiro and Atletico left for tours abroad. The championship was suspended and the two clubs will play off for the title next year.

● Other state championships are drawing to a close and the national championship was due to start at the end of August with 54 clubs selected by the Brazilian Confederation. But there has been considerable criticism over the selection, the charge being that politics has played an important part in the choice as this is election year and Confederation president Admiral Heleno Nunes is also chairman of the pro government party.

The strong states — Guanabara (Rio), Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais, Rio Grande do Sul — account for 22 clubs while 16 other states are represented by 32 clubs. Brasilia is not represented this year due to a local league row which has gone to the courts.

The once great Santos were eliminated in the first round of the Sao Paulo State League, but were again chosen to take part in the "national". They have been helped out by other big clubs playing benefit friendlies against them to help them out of a financial crisis and also to keep the players in training meanwhile.

● The birth of another Garrincha made news recently. Former World Cup champion winger Garrincha, who many considered even a greater player than Pele, had eight daughters by his first wife but no sons. He has been living with well known samba singer Elza Soares for the last 14 years and their first child, Manoel Garrincha Dos Santos was born in July. Counting five children from Elza's previous marriage, six adopted, six of Garrincha's by his first marriage and two grand children, they are now raising 20 in all.

Searching the Soccer Scene by Arthur Rotmil

BRAZIL LOOK LIKELY WINNERS AGAIN

PLAYED SIX — won six, reads the fine record of Brazil's national team, so far in 1976. With the next World Cup less than two years away, the passionately involved fans from South America's largest State are beginning to get excited at the prospect of seeing their side reach out again for the world's premier trophy.

Grouped with Paraguay and Colombia in the qualifying section, the Brazilians should have no difficulty in entering the finals. Since these will be staged in neighbouring Argentina, the chances of Brazil becoming world champions must be rated highly and certainly well above those of the European contenders.

Of those six victories which the Brazilians registered recently, these stand out in particular: the 2-0 win over Argentina, the 1-0 success over England and the 4-1 destruction of Italy. The last two games were part of the American Bicentennial tournament which Brazil won in style.

A number of players totally unknown to European journalists and other international experts, have impressed in that tourney and it is clear that come 1978 the South Americans will once again surprise the world with the naturally talented, extrovert, unorthodox and artistically gifted footballers.

Brazil, it will be remembered, is the only country which has won three world championship titles and thus claimed the original Jules Rimet trophy as a permanent possession. But in the last World Cup series the once dazzling South Americans disappointed, not only the millions of home fans, but also the multitude of their followers all over the globe.

Penetration

The Brazilian team performing in Germany appeared devoid of new ideas, old fashioned in its approach, strangely dedfensive-minded and lacking penetration to make any telling impact on the top European defences. A fourth place, which might have been judged a success by many countries, was by their own high standards rated a failure.

As a result, the Brazilians have discarded a number of ageing stars, but most important of all, the Sports Federation (CBD) dismissed Mario Zagalo and appointed Osvaldo Brandao as the new national coach.

Who is Brandao? Well, he was born on September 18, 1916, in Taquara, in the State of Rio Grande do Sul. At the start of his active career Brandao played for virtually every club in the South of the country, before making a name for himself with the more famous clubs from Sao Paulo. He was centre half of the national side in the 'thirties and 'forties and in 1938 a member of Brazil's World Cup squad.

As a coach Brandao began in 1945, spending some time with all the giants from Sao Paulo, like Corinthians, FC Sao Paulo and Palmeiras. In-between he also managed Nacional Montevideo (Uruguay) and Independiente of Buenos Aires (Argentina).

At the start of the 'seventies he led FC Sao Paulo on two championship titles and in 1973 and 1974 he repeated these triumphs with Palmeiras. In the two seasons before becoming boss of the national side, Brandao was voted "Manager of the Year".

Principal

The new supremo realises fully the unique problems which confront every national coach in his country. Brazil is a vast land, bigger than the whole of Europe. The distances between the principal soccer centres are enormous, but worst of all, there is no National League where all the candidates for the national team can be observed regularly week by week. There is, for example, no way of comparing the best defenders in action against the top forwards and certainly in the regional Leagues a lot of talent remains untapped.

In addition, the sporting public reared on success in the past and brought up to believe that Brazilian footballers are the best in the world, demand instant results at international level. When Brandao took over he warned: "Brazilian football is suffering from two ailments: lack of discipline in training within the clubs and the absence of good wing forwards. In my time every youngster wanted to be a forward — today, out of sheer laziness, they prefer to be stuck in midfield."

Brandao has prepared a ten-point plan as a guide-line to the formation and preparation of the national squad. Some of his proposals appeared, by South American standards, almost revolutionary. One paragraph, for instance, concerns the social welfare of the players. If the squad stays in the training camp for more than 20 days, then the wives will be allowed to join their husbands there. Bachelors will be permitted to leave the training centre.

One of Brandao's major problems is the precarious financial state of most clubs, even at the highest level. Because of the relatively high salaries and bonuses and, by contrast, very modest admission prices, all Brazilian clubs are struggling to make ends meet. Subsequently, they are reluctant to release their stars for international matches, but especially so for lengthy training sessions.

Afraid

They are afraid of losing their best players through injury and they need them for their lucrative overseas tours, without which no top Brazilian club could hope to earn enough money to survive and to keep their leading stars.

I am reminded that the famous FC Santos, with Pele, regularly played about 100 games a year, thus frequently deprived the national manager of his best international players. Many clubs are forced to sell their best men

The Cruzeiro (Brazil) team at Buenos Aires airport on the way to Chile for the Libertadores Cup Final play off which they won.

abroad in order to stave off bankruptcy, and often for practically bargain fees. Of Brazil's last World Cup squad several players have in fact joined European clubs, though only Luis Pereira and Leivinha have madethe grade (both with Atletico Madrid). The clubs, as indeed the whole country, passionately want to see Brazil back at the top of the world rankings, but very few club officials are prepared to help the national coach, if such aid should conflict with the club's interests. It is of course largely a matter of economics and like in other parts of the world, the Brazilian players are also getting too much money — money which is simply not coming through the turnstiles.

Instinctive

Brazil, more perhaps than any other country, produces natural instinctive footballers. If only they had the same advantages as the British, with their most privileged youngsters in the world, in organised schools football, — than they would be invincible. The problem is to harness their talent, to smooth out the edges, to add tactical know-how and above all, physical toughness and discipline to their inherent skills.

Now, a fresh wind is blowing in Brazilian footballwhere following the elevation of Joao Havelange to the presidency of FIFA, the top officials of the Sports Federation, including the chairman of the Football Association, have been replaced with new and ambitious men.

History has shown that Brazil always managed to raise great national teams in cycles. Since the next World Cup will be staged in neighbouring Argentina, they will spare no effort to winback the world crown. No European team has ever won the World Cup in South America. And now, Brazil, together with Argentina, are warning the Europeans that they will be deposed in 1978!

AEK Athens busy in the market

says Jack Rollin

THE NEW championship in Greece began on October 3 with the 16 First Division clubs now dominated more than ever by the Athens — Piraeus — Salonika group. Ten clubs come from these three centres with Athens and Piraeus possessing seven of them in a population of 2 million.

Runners-up AEK Athens have been busy in the transfer market signing some leading internationals including goalkeeper Nikos Christidis from Aris Salonika, the Panionios striker Thomas Mavros plus midfield players Intzoglou from Panionios and Nikoloudis from Iraklis.

The improvement shown by the northern clubs of Salonika and notably PAOK the champions and Iraklis the Cup winners last season is certain to be challenged by AEK Athens, who have spent heavily to improve their strength.

Panathinaikos who were fourth have had a number of additions as well as losing some familar faces. Gone are goalkeeper Ikonomopoulos to Panachaiki Patras, full-backs Kampas and Vlachos to Iraklion and winger Harry Grammos who has joined Olympiakos the third placed club.

Arrivals are Aslanidis from PAOK, Alvarez from Iannina and Vallian from Apollon Athens along with Eleftheriadis of Ethnikos.

An intensive programme of international fixtures has also been prepared to aid the World Cup qualifying assault by national coach Lakis Petroupoulos.

Muller on the mark yet again

GERD MULLER took only 19 minutes to get on the mark in this season's European Cup in scoring against Koge BK the Danish club in Copenhagen. But his club colleague at Bayern Munich, Swedish born Conny Torstensson was ahead of him as he opened the scoring after three minutes. Both players scored twice in fact and Bernd Durnberger a fifth in Bayern's 5-0 win.

* * *

THE OPENING day of the new Belgian First Division programme produced 22 goals in nine matches though eight came in one match in which Beerschot defeated Lierse 6-2.

* * *

RENE HUSSY has been dismissed as Switzerland's national team coach after three years in charge. Recently the side were beaten 1-0 by Norway the 24th match in which he has been at the helm. Switzerland won only five and drew another four of these games and scored only 17 goals and conceded 28.

* * *

IN SUCCESSIVE weeks nine goals were scored in one West German Bundesliga match. Eintracht Frankfurt beat Schalke 04 6-3 and then Bayern Munich defeated newly promoted Tennis Borussia 9-0.

* * *

CROWDS CONTINUE to boom in East Germany where 158,000 watched the opening League programme of seven First Division matches! The Berlin local derby between Union and Dynamo attracted the biggest attendance 45,000.

EAST GERMANY'S Footballer of the Year is 29-year-old Jurgen Croy goalkeeper of Sachsenring Zwickau and the national team who has 73 caps including an Olympic Gold Medal in the Montreal Games.

* * *

ATTENDANCES IN the North American Soccer League last season attracted an average of 10,253 per match representing an increase per game of 2,600 on the previous season. Seattle were the best supported side with an average of 23,726 followed by Minnesota with 23,121 and Portland with 20,333. San Jose had 19,286 but Pele's New York Cosmos attracted only 18,266.

* * *

SIXTEEN TOP Argentinian players have been transferred during the past year to foreign clubs. In addition internationals like Ruben Ayala, Hector Yazalde, Hugo Bargas and Daniel Carnevali have been abroad for some years now.

* * *

CHILE'S WORLD Cup plans are likely to include several exiles like Alberto Quintano, Carlos Reinoso and Miguel-Angel Gambou playing in Mexico, Elias Figueroa in Brazil; Carlos Caszely in Spain and Ignacio Prieto in France.

* * *

ST. ETIENNE entered September with an unbeaten home record in First Division matches going back to March 1973. Then they were beaten 2-1 by Nantes and up-to-date have gone 65 games without losing.

PETER DUCKE of Carl Zeiss Jena recently completed his 150th League goal in his illustrious career of more than a decade and a half. Thirty-four-year-old Ducke is affectionately known as "Black Peter" because of his excitable nature which frequently led him into trouble in his early career.

* * *

HARALD BERG the Norwegian international forward who now plays for Bodo Glint has been voted "the most outstanding player of all time in Norway".

* * *

THE PRAGUE local derby between Slavia and Sparta was watched by a crowd of 40,000 though more than 20,000 stayed away presumably to watch the Czech Ice Hockey team defeat Canada on TV.

* * *

JACEK GMOCH the new Polish national team manager produced a surprise squad for the international with Portugal with only five familiar names in the party of 22: midfield players Kazimierz Deyna and Henryk Kasperczak, defender Wladyslaw Zmuda and strikers Grzegorz Lato and Andrzej Szarmach.

* * *

BENNY WENDT the Tennis Borussia striker was top scorer for the club after five matches this season, getting seven of their eight goals. A Swedish international signed from Cologne, Wendt also headed the Bundesliga scoring charts at the same time.

* * *

FIRST PLAYER in Europe to reach double figures in League matches this season was Dudu Georgescu the Rumanian international centre-forward of Dinamo Bucharest who scored 10 goals in his first five League games this season.

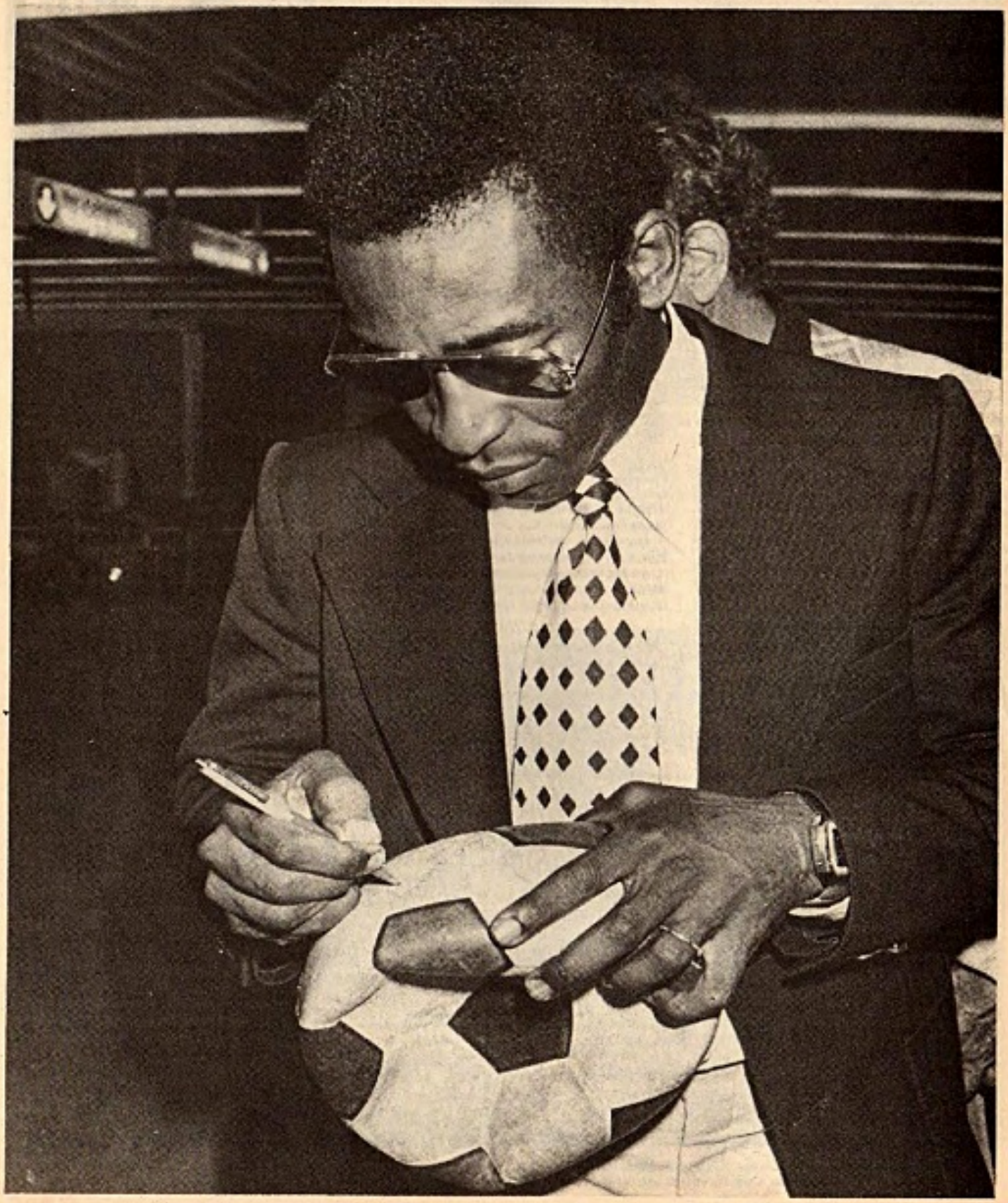
ABOVE: Barcelona versus Real Madrid with (left to right) Jensen (RM), Del Bosque (RM), Neeskens (B), Migueli (B) and Santillana (RM). RIGHT: Pele, in Paris with the New York Cosmos team, autographs a football at Orly airport.

Last month

IT WOULD appear that the World Soccer headline writers had a touch of insanity last month. Our apologies for the reference to the new Tottenham Hotspur manager as Keith "Burtenshaw" and not Burkinshaw, and for suggesting that the outstanding team in Asia was Ivan and not Iran. Those responsible have been banished to the wilderness and ordered to write out the complete contents of the Rothmans Year Book one thousand times.

WORLD SOCCER DIARY

Compiled by Jack Rollin



Defensor de Montevideo end monopoly

SOUTH AMERICAN ROUND-UP

by ERIC WEIL

HELPED PERHAPS by the general shortage of cash in Uruguayan soccer, the ban on foreign players (who always used to boost the strength of the two richer clubs, Peñarol and Nacional) and the preoccupation of champions Peñarol with the Libertadores Cup (while most of their players also composed a losing Uruguayan selection which saturated them with soccer), modest Defensor de Montevideo did what had been considered impossible — they won the Uruguayan First Division championship for the first time and ended the title monopoly of Peñarol and Nacional which stretched right back to the 1933 start of professional soccer in Uruguay.

The last "outsiders" to win the title were Montevideo Wanderers back in the amateur days — or perhaps sham-amateur — of 1931, while Peñarol (22) and Nacional (20) have won all the professional titles.

The Defensor "miracle" has brought a breath of fresh air to the monotonous Uruguayan championship — also with the tactics they employed — but the little club had to fight all the way in one of the closest title fights for years.

They won the title by one point over Peñarol — champions for the last three years — and in the last week, amid speculation that matches would be fixed in favour of Peñarol, they beat relegation threatened Fenix and Rentistas 3-2 and 2-1 respectively to maintain their lead.

They ended with a 13 won, 6 draws, 3 lost (goals 33-24) record and the closeness of the battle can be judged from the fact that bottom

Boca Juniors just managed to draw 1-1 with classic rivals River Plate (who were fielding reserves while resting their team for the Libertadores Cup Final) in the first division final round with this penaly converted by Felman.

Diaz (Boca Juniors) shoots from close in but Hurucan's Balay (1) stopped this one in the vital match which Boca won 1-0.

Liverpool's record was 5 won, 5 drawn, 12 lost (goals 25-30) with only five more goals against than for. Fenix were actually relegated on accumulation of points during 1975 and 1976 although they finished next to bottom.

Defensor's soccer was not pretty to watch and they made their followers suffer during the entire championship as they rarely won by more than a goal. But 49-year-old coach Jose Ricardo De Leon — who is in the habit of lifting up small clubs — coined the right phrase: "Ugly football but lovely victories" which, in the end, was the only thing that counted.

De Leon, who had taken Mexico's Atletico Español to prominence as vice champions and coached Toluca to the title there, knows the limitations of his Defensors team. They rely on defence and keeping the ball away from the opposition. They fight very hard for the ball, but do not have the all-round skill to create openings when they get possession.

De Leon favours total football — all defend when the other team has the ball and all attack when in possession. He hasn't quite got it with Defensors and he doesn't like his players crowding around their own goalmouth although that is what has frequently happened. His next step, he says, is to improve attacking methods.

He regularly has the reserves playing the first team in practice matches, but the latter play without a goalkeeper while De Leon sits on a chair in the goalmouth. The idea is not only to make things more even, but also to get the players used to not letting the opposition shoot at goal. As a result they play in league games as if they had no goalkeeper and this has been one of Defensor's strong points.

But De Leon dreams of more ambitious play and his ideal is Argentina's Estudiantes de La Plata which won the Libertadores Cup three years running and, curiously, were also the first so called small club to win the First Division title in their country in 1967.

The Defensor coach also maintains that the cheers from the crowd are very important, but in this sense the club is not so fortunate. Their stadium is in the centrally situated Parque Rodó in Montevideo and they draw their support from this populated middle and upper class zone which is not however given to fanatical outbursts.

But there is another powerful reason for their success this season — former international Luis Cubilla.

When the club's directors told De Leon this year that they wanted to build a champion team, he said: "In that case let's get Cubilla." They thought he was mad of course, because the former World Cup star was 36, had a big belly and one of three sons already playing for his old club, Peñarol. But De Leon insisted he needed Cubilla's experience and Cubilla became the star of the team.

Cubilla never stood out as a hard worker and less so now, but he is still a "maestro" at holding on to the ball — it is practically impossible to get it off him — and precision passes which he can place exactly where he wants from 30 metres. Cubilla managed to take the team from defence (when pressed back around their goal) to attack and change the rhythm of the game when necessary.

Three clubs

The much travelled veteran — who now manufactures footballs — already played in Peñarole's First Division 20 years ago, went to Spain's Barcelona in 1963, on to Argentina's River Plate in 1964, back to Nacional (Uruguay) in 1969 and to Santiago Morning (Chile) last year and he is now the only player to have won Uruguayan titles with three clubs.

He says the latest with Defensor gave him most pleasure because it was the hardest, but he was quick to point out that the friendly spirit in the team — they shared all bonuses (roughly £100 per win) with the players who did not play — helped a lot and added that every team needs workmen, foremen and architects to become champion. "We had the lot and I, at my age, was the architect of course."

So at a time when Uruguayan soccer is at a low ebb — internationally as well as the general standard in league games (blamed mainly on the continual exodus of stars who are replaced by inexperienced youngsters) — Defensor has helped to increase interest and gates while many people are already talking of De Leon — they now call him Corazon de Leon (lion heart) — as Uruguay's World Cup coach to give them "lovely wins even if achieved with ugly football."

URUGUAYAN FIRST DIVISION CHAMPIONS (professional)

1933	Nacional	1955	Nacional
1934	Nacional	1956	Nacional
1935	Peñarol	1957	Nacional
1936	Peñarol	1958	Peñarol
1937	Peñarol	1959	Peñarol
1938	Peñarol	1960	Peñarol
1939	Nacional	1961	Peñarol
1940	Nacional	1962	Peñarol
1941	Nacional	1963	Nacional
1942	Nacional	1964	Peñarol
1943	Nacional	1965	Peñarol
1944	Peñarol	1966	Nacional
1945	Peñarol	1967	Peñarol
1946	Nacional	1968	Peñarol
1947	Nacional	1969	Nacional
1948	not completed	1970	Nacional
1949	Peñarol	1971	Nacional
1950	Nacional	1972	Nacional
1951	Peñarol	1973	Peñarol
1952	Nacional	1974	Peñarol
1953	Peñarol	1975	Peñarol
1954	Peñarol	1976	Defensor

Totals: Peñarol 22, Nacional 20, Defensor 1.

1966 What's

ENGLISH F HAS MADE PROGRESS IN

by

A LITTLE more than ten years ago England were presented with the Jules Rimet trophy they had coveted for so long. In my opinion they almost stole the cup although even today, playing at Wembley, they are not easy to beat and in the 1966 series they played all their games at Wembley. Looking back over the last ten years I find that little has changed in English football and that, even though under new management, the England team is still as devoid of real football as it was in 1966.

In the September 1966 *World Soccer* a four page article was published, written by me and highly critical of England, the referees and the general standard of play. In that article I wrote . . .

Apart from Hungary and Portugal no other teams in the last 16 had the necessary ability to play real football . . .

I went on to criticise England's 4-4-2 defensive tactics, Alf Ramsey (who I correctly anticipated would receive a knighthood) and the state of world football in general.

Fortunately, judging by the enterprising attacking play demonstrated by all four semi finalists in the recent European championship final in Yugoslavia, the rest of the world learned the lessons of 1966 but I can see no sign that England has learned anything. The die-hard fans still insist that England were worthy winners in 1966, but . . .

While I was away on holiday many people saw a repeat of the 1966 final on TV and the comments of some of the people I know bear out the criticisms that I made at the time.

One friend who saw it simply described it as "rubbish".

Another said: "******* terrible", . . . while a more eloquent coach I know told me: "take away all the emotion surrounding the game at the time and strip it of the nationalistic ribbons and it was very ordinary."

Ten years later, most of my acquaintances have come round to the view that I was probably right in that article of September, 1966 . . .

Looking for football in the 1966 World Cup was very like seeking water in the Sahara. It almost didn't exist. And later . . . And so to England, the new holders of the Jules Rimet trophy, and note well that I do not describe them as the best team in the world, nor as the world champions. In my opinion the team created by Alf Ramsey is so far from being an ideal team and nothing will ever shake my view that the England team we have seen taking shape between 1963 and 1966 is the poorest ever to wear the England colours.

Of course I wouldn't expect the Fleet Street experts or TV commentators to agree with me, even now. They were over the moon in 1966 and to withdraw anything they said and wrote then would be to admit openly that they did not know the game.

But nothing that England have achieved since 1966 suggests that I was even slightly wrong about English football and the national team. In the 1972 European championship England were hammered out of sight by a superb West Germany that included real players like Gunter Netzer, Gerd Muller and Franz Beckenbauer.

Host nation

Then in the 1976 European championship England failed to get beyond the qualifying stage, eliminated by Czechoslovakia who England beat 3-0 at Wembley. Significantly, England only managed a 1-0 win away to Cyprus — where Denmark recently went and won 5-1 in a 1978 World Cup qualifying game!

In the World Cup, England's performance overall is really frighteningly poor. In 1966 they did not need to qualify as the host nation. In 1970 England qualified automatically as the holders of the trophy and in 1974 they failed to qualify, eliminated by Poland.

Remember too that in 1950 and 1954, England qualified in a group that FIFA agreed could be the British home international championship and it will be seen that only in 1958 and 1962 have England EVER QUALIFIED AGAINST CONTINENTAL OPPOSITION. And what opposition it was too . . . Denmark and Eire for 1958, Luxembourg and Portugal for 1962 (and Luxembourg did England a big favour by beating Portugal 4-2!).

Eire players in training before their 1-1 draw against England at Wembley.

's new? 1976

FOOTBALL DE LITTLE IN 10 YEARS

Mike Doyle, who played for England in America last summer.

by Eric Batty

Going back once more to my article of September, 1966 there is one particular piece that still stands up today . . . .

If one wants to classify teams and give awards for various attributes one can say:
The most determined team was England; the toughest team was Russia, and the most defensive (and most modern) were Argentina, but the most disturbing feature of the whole series was the terribly low standard of refereeing. If these really were the world's best teams, and the world's best referees then football must surely be in a very bad way.
Asked by one continental magazine to give my assessment of the best five teams in the World Cup and to award them points out of a maximum of ten I gave my views. I repeat them here for they serve as a very good guide to my view of the series as a whole:

1. *Hungary . . . five points from ten.*
2. *Portugal . . . four points from ten.*
3. *North Korea . . . one point from ten.*
4. *Argentina . . . minus 1 point.*
5. *England . . . minus 2 points.*

Those who have read my articles in the past and either understood the points I tried to make, or sympathised with them, will understand the despondancy I felt on the evening of July 30 (1966). But for those who have not been regular readers of WORLD SOCCER I will explain.

For some years now the world game has been standing at a crossroads. Those who really wield the power in the game have been trying to decide between virtue and profit. Trying to decide between skill, intelligence and entertainment on the one hand – strength, courage and victory on the other. They have asked themselves is it better to play well and lose or play badly and win?

In reality, skill, entertainment and victory have never been incompatible but these objectives can only be attained by good players and good coaching. Players we have a-plenty, but the best use is rarely made of them, and amidst a surfeit of bad coaching the handful of men who really know the game have become grossly outnumbered and often overshadowed. For the regular fans there has never been any doubt about their preference for victory when watching 'their' team. For years we have recognised that only the result is important as far as our team is concerned yet incongruously when these same fans go to watch a game in which they are neutral they demand to see 'real' football! Clearly, they cannot have it both ways.

The outlook of the die-hard fans is clear – victory at any price. But for those whose livelihood is closely connected to the game, and are aware of the dangers, the big question – football or points – has a deeper meaning. The future of the game has been at stake, responsibility for its health could not be taken lightly.

Oblivion

Applied to England and English football, every word is just as valid now as it was ten years ago. Perhaps, with more and more clubs on the point of following Accrington Stanley into oblivion, it is possibly even more true today. Yet the supporters of the clubs in the most severe trouble still want their teams to win — with the liquidators about to knock on the door — they cannot see that football will not survive unless they 'attract back' the missing millions, who only want to be entertained.

West Germany entertained at Wembley and in Brussels in 1972 . . . and they were successful. Czechoslovakia entertained in 1976 and were successful, as were Brazil in the 1970 World Cup.

Can we in England not learn the lesson from this? Must we continue to ignore the achievements of the bloody foreigners? Must we forever insist on the manly virtues of getting stuck in?

The truth is that as far as England is concerned nothing Don Revie has done has been any improvement on Alf Ramsey. The heart of the problem goes back much further.

I believe that England took the wrong turning way back at the end of the 1953-54 season. In the autumn we had seen the magnificent Hungarians hammer England so superbly by 6-3 at Wembley. Then with everyone applauding we argued that the England team at Wembley had been too old and took a much younger, fitter side to Budapest for the return game in May, a team that would get stuck in and stop the Hungarians from playing.

The result was an even bigger disaster. England lost 7-1 that day at the Nep Stadion in Budapest and more than that, they lost their way.

Since then English football has been dominated by those who claim that English players could never play the way those Hungarians did, we could never match the top foreigners for real football. From then on we based our game on British qualities; speed and endurance, the will to win, our ability in the air, getting stuck in.

But even here we didn't reckon on the foreigners realising that they trailed behind us in dealing with the high cross, and could match our will to win. In the last 20 years foreign goalkeepers generally and defences as a whole have put in a lot of time and effort in training, to dealing with the high cross — and when the best foreign teams soak up the high cross and laugh in the faces of English players, who don't know what to try next. They are lost.

It is clear to me that here in England we must work harder in training to improve our skill — all skills. All training must be with the ball, as it is now with one or two English clubs with good coaches. We must reject the traditional British qualities and seek the skills of the best continentals. We produced players like Stan Matthews, Tom Finney, Wilf Mannion, Jimmy Mason, Tommy Walker, Peter Doherty and Raich Carter long before we had heard of Puskas and Bozsik.

I hate to think of it, but perhaps the malaise of British football is only part of the problem; that perhaps the whole of British life is sick, and that we need an even greater depression than the one we are in already. Do we really need things to get as bad as they were in the 1930's before we start to solve some of our problems? As far as football is concerned I fear that we do.

Pele, Best, but where c

Paul Gardner's personal, random, and totally biased diary of some of the happenings during the past season.

Mon. Feb 23: Out to Hofstra University on Long Island to see the 1976 Cosmos training . . . The word has been going around that new coach Ken Furphy is another Simon Legree . . . The field is on a flat piece of ground that used to be an airfield, they tell me Lindbergh took off from here. Whatever, it's always windswept . . . "Even when there's no wind, it's windy here," says assistant coach Gordon Bradley . . . Furphy is complaining about a player who turned up uninvited and now won't go away . . . "I've told him to bugger off three times, but he keeps coming back" . . . and to Furphy's bemused horror the player scores three quite nice goals during the practice game . . . The wind eventually blows everyone back into the dressing room, where Furphy tells Pele he'll have to wait his turn for the massage table.

Sun Mar 28: Two subway trains and (after a 20 minute wait) one bus to take me to Maspeth to see a German-American League game between Intergiuliana and Brooklyn Italians . . . I've been coming here regularly (but not too frequently) for over 16 years now and the incredible thing is how little anything has changed in that time . . . The "stadium" is still the same shambles . . . No grass on the field, plenty growing on the terraces, ramshackle sheds for shelter, feeble yellow lights . . . The standard of play no better and no worse in all those years . . . This is ethnic soccer, a living corpse, in a state of stagnant decay . . . I confess a certain fascination . . . If the stadium weren't so didficult to get to, I'd go more often . . . The Brooklyn Italians (who include several noticeably black players) are beaten 1-0 by Intergiuliana.

Fri April 9: I've been reading this new book, *Total Soccer*, by Joe Marcus who, it says on the cover, is America's No 1 Soccer Authority . . . It seems there is tactical inventiveness in the German/American League . . . The coach of the Greek-Americans, says Mr Marcus, "got great success at times from sending his inside forward out to the sidelines, with the outside winger cutting in toward the inside position just vacated. The defence, which was playing a man-to-man coverage, almost always crashed into one another — leaving them two defenders short and giving the Greek-Americans two-man offensive advantage." . . . and the prone bodies were removed by the sweeper, no doubt.

Sun April 18: Up at the crack of dawn (well, 7 a.m.) and down to 14th Street to The Academy of Music, a huge cinema where a live satellite-transmission of the Italian Serie A game between Napoli and Juventus is to start at 9.30 . . . Tickets at $10.00, the picture is in black and white . . . Impossible to estimate the crowd, but plenty of noise, even some banners waving in the auditorium . . . I find myself sitting next to an Italian who says he used to play for Juventus . . . Maybe he did, but there do seem to be an awful lot of ex-Juventus players in the New York area . . . The score is 1-1 which I thought fair, but which seems to have left both sets of fans dissatisfied . . . I like the atmosphere at these games, though the picture could (and for $10 *should)* be better . . . And I do have disturbing visions of what might happen if transmission failed while the winning goal was going in.

Sun May 2: The Cosmos open at home with an afternoon game against the Chicago Sting in the refurbished Yankee Stadium . . . One big problem is the press box, which is at one end of the field, giving a close-up view of one goal, and a long-range look at the other . . . Fine, sunny day, 28,000 crowd; Cosmos play badly and lose 1-2 in overtime . . . Still, there was a marvellous goal from Pele, followed by that wonderfully exciting leap and punch . . . And, folks, we have a new attraction, The Grasshoppers, a corps of female dancers wearing ugly (but mercifully brief) costumes in Cosmos colours, to entertain at half-time.

Tues May 4: Team America practising out at Hofstra today . . . George Best hasn't turned up, but Marsh has . . . The possibles (very few of them American) go through their paces, while the three coaches — Furphy, Eddy Firmani and Manfred Schellscheidt — watch . . . *Three* coaches? It all seems rather meaningless . . . At a luncheon later, United States Soccer Federation President Gene Edwards is talking about the hopes the USA have of qualifying for the 1978 World Cup . . . I think it very unlikely, and anyway it would be a disaster . . . We simply don't have the players . . . At the moment we don't even have a permanent national team coach.

Wed May 5: Cosmos 3 Hartford 1 . . . For this one, I have decided to sit in the stands with the fans . . . Not so easy . . . My ticket, like all the others, is clearly marked with location, and row and seat number . . . Fine for American fans, but the stadium is full of Italians and Greeks who don't give a damn about seat numbers and who follow the good old European tradition of sitting in the best place they can find . . . The ushers look on in despair . . . I end up sitting miles from my designated seat . . . A win for the Cosmos, but they still look disjointed . . . The crowd is jeering occasionally.

Sat May 8: Tonight I am down on the field taking photographs . . . the Cosmos take a quick 1-0 lead over the Philadelphia Atoms . . . Pele's cross-shot has beaten the goalkeeper and is evidently going in . . . but I'm sitting right on the goal line, and see Tony Field clearly touch the ball before it does go in, giving it the final nudge . . . Goal to Field, I would have thought . . . The official scorer gives it to Pele . . . That's all the scoring until there's less than a minute to go, when the Atoms tie it, then score again less than a minute into overtime . . . End of game, considerable booing from crowd.

Thurs May 13: Today I have received a press release from the Boston Minutemen talking about the possibility of Giorgio Chinaglia joining the Cosmos . . . Chinaglia, it says, grew up in "Wales, England."

Fri May 14: Philadelphia: here to see the Atoms play the Los Angeles Aztecs . . . I want to see what George Best looks like . . . not bad at all . . . But the Aztecs have the same disease as the Cosmos, the inevitable problem of North American Soccer League teams, no clear style . . . They are, basically, a pick-up team with an incongruous mixture of standards and styles among the players . . . The Atoms, on the other hand, are virtually all Mexicans and show a clear, quite attractive style . . . Best complaining repeatedly to the referee in the second half ABOUT the way he's being fouled . . . Incidentally, all NASL referees and linesmen are wearing numbers this season, identifiable from the league's press guide . . . The game goes to overtime, then to penalty kicks (which the PA announcer insists on calling a "goal-kick situation") . . . Of the 10 kicks taken, 5 are missed . . . Best hits the bar, but the Aztecs are the winners.

Tues May 18: Portland, Oregon: a lovely, green city where a great interest in soccer has developed in the past year, since the formation of the NASL's Portland Timbers . . . This evening in Delta Park there are three junior games going on, one of them for girls . . . In one of the boys' games, of quite respectable standard, one of the coaches is getting on to the referee who threatens to abandon the game . . . The boys stand around talking among themselves and fidgeting while the argument goes on . . . A sort of cameo of so much in American sports, the damaging arrogance of coaches . . . After the game, some boys from the winning team discuss the fact that a girl played on the other team . . . They find it upsets their game, they were reluctant to tackle her, and were sure the referee favoured her when they did tackle.

Wed May 19: Terrific atmosphere in Portland's Civic Stadium for the Timbers' game against San Antonio . . . 18,000 people, all seated and all smiling, it seems . . . Only thing wrong for me is the artificial turf,

Marsh, Chinaglia are the Americans?

Clive Toye (left) of New York Cosmos and Phil Woosnam of the NASL.

which I come to dislike more and more, both for its appearance, and for what it does to the game . . . I like what a baseball player once said: "If a horse can't eat it I don't want to play on it." . . . In the press box the Timbers' PR man Dennis O'Meara is typing furiously away, then handing out, at half and full time, a "highlight sheet", with all the plays and times in telegram-ese —

45.00 Hood kicks off

44.03 Smith fouled by Stahl, R. Martin free kick

43.30 Mackay steals from Thomson, shot saved by Clark and so on . . . If it's accurate, it's useful . . . Not a good game, technically crude . . . but the crowd go off with even bigger smiles as the Timbers win 1-0.

Sat May 22: After driving around the Los Angeles Coliseum at least 10 times, I eventually find a way in to watch England and Brazil working out . . . England just finishing, working on set plays, except Gordon Hill who seems to be doing whatever he likes and enjoying it immensely . . . Brazil arrive, inevitably, half an hour late . . . I'm immediately struck by the presence of Francisco Marinho . . . Presence in both sexes . . . Because he was supposed to have dropped out of the party, and because his glaring blond hair and golden skin make him almost glow amidst his much darker colleagues.

Sun May 23: The usual pre-game chaos . . . Brazilians complaining loudly about the facilities . . . Radio facilities in the USA means a seat in the radio booth, in Brazil it means a seat on the touchline with a mike and a mile of cable and permission to run on the field to interview players . . . Eddie Firmani, scouting for Team America, is stranded outside the stadium without a ticket . . . Marinho, the Brazilians say, will not play, yet he comes on in the second half and immediately bombs a 35-yard shot against the bar . . . England, unluckily, go down 0-1 . . . They tell me Peter Ustinov was in the crowd . . . There did seem to be a surprisingly large number of Union Jacks around.

Fri May 28: Yale University's stadium at New Haven, Brazil vs Italy . . . Pre-game talks with Nando Martellini of Italian television who says: "The Italian players are tired, they want to go home, they will not play well today" . . . And with João Saldanha who is pessimistic about soccer's chances of success in the USA . . . Beautiful field, beautiful afternoon, big crowd, and a superb game . . . Brazil 4 Italy 1, four marvellous goals . . . Rivelino looking better than ever, Gil like Jairzinho of 1970, Zico scoring an unforgettable goal . . . So good, all of it, that I'm forgetting that three players were sent off . . . Yet the roughness was isolated, the essence of the afternoon was Brazil's superb second half soccer.

Sun Jun 6: Tampa, Florida: Back to the NASL, and a really disgraceful performance by the Cosmos, beaten 1-5 by the Tampa Bay Rowdies . . . Nothing good to say about them . . . Pele lethargic, but so was everyone else . . . After the game, Chinaglia gives me a particularly scathing criticism of the English style and the "English third division mentality" that he claims to see too much of after only two games with the Cosmos . . . But the Cosmos cannot go on like this, they and Lele are the hope of the NASL . . . Something will have to be done, surely.

Wed Jun 16: Arriving at Yankee Stadium for tonight's Cosmos vs Boston game, I run into Freddie Goodwin, coach of the Minnesota Kicks . . . Is he scouting? . . . No, he has the whole team with him, they may even be playing tonight, there is a problem with the Boston players, who may refuse to play . . . One has been hearing rumours that the owner of the Boston team is broke . . . Now it seems his players won't play tonight unless they see a valid certificate before the game showing that they are insured against injury . . . The impasse is resolved by Phil Woosnam and the Minutemen take the field and beat the Cosmos on penalty kicks . . . Pele misses the vital kick for New York . . . The Cosmos have protested the game as Boston were allowed to retake a missed kick, using another player, who scored . . . Much carrying on around the dressing room corridors after the game . . . While I'm waiting to see Boston coach Hubert Vogelsinger, I spy Cosmos GM Clive Toye and Steve Ross, President of Warner Communications (who own the Cosmos) bearing down with ominous stride . . . Toye, face swollen and livid as a red card, Ross, face drawn and pale as a yellow card, sweep past, headed for the referees' dressing room where it seems they created quite a scene . . . Vogelsinger says he hasn't been paid since November and is sick of the whole business . . . Steve Ross later utters the cryptic statement that unless something is done about the refereeing, the Cosmos won't play in the league next season . . . Answering journalists' questions, Furphy has a distinctly embattled look about him. After all, bad refereeing or not, the Cosmos were 2-0 up in this game with only 15 minutes left.

Fri June 18: A good win for the Cosmos tonight, 3-1 over Toronto . . . A fine goal from Chinaglia with eight seconds left . . . Fluttering ominously in the breeze from the upper deck of the stadium, a banner reading: "Go Home Ken Furphy — and Take Your Boys With You" . . . "Jesus" comments a press box voice, "banners at a soccer game? Who would go to that trouble?" . . . "Steve Ross?" answers another voice.

● Continued on page 43

TORONTO AND EUSEBIO WIN N.A.S.L. TITLE

TORONTO METROS-CROATIA, led by the great Eusebio, a team ignored by most of the North American Soccer League throughout the length of the regular season, won the league championship in the final in Seattle by beating the favoured Minnesota Kicks 3-0, causing a major upset and taking the trophy to Canada for the first time.

Report from COLIN JOSE

Before a record crowd for an NASL final of 25,765 Minnesota took the game to Toronto for the first 30 minutes with Luton Town player Alan West prominent in driving his team forward.

But the tight Toronto defence was in command and as the game wore on they gained control of midfield. Toronto went ahead five minutes from half time when Eusebio scored with a tremendous free kick from 22 yards which was deflected by the Minnesota wall and hit the underside of the bar before entering the net.

The turning point in the game came early in the second half when with Minnesota pressing a fine move between Patrick Ntsolenque and Ade Coker ended with Coker being brought down in the penalty area. It looked like a clear penalty but referee Gordon Hill waved play on.

Bilecki then made a fine save on Ron Futcher before Toronto made it 2-0 eight minutes after the restart with striker Ivan Lukacevic chesting down a long pass and blasting the ball past Geoff Barnett from close range.

But as time wore on Toronto's strong defence with Mladen Cukon, Filip Blaskovic and Robert Iarusci outstanding began to absorb most of the Minnesota attacks and with seven minutes left little Toronto winger Ivan Girnja made a fine run on the left his shot was blocked but the ball ran loose to Ivair Ferreira whose shot gave Barnett no chance.

In order to reach the final, Toronto, who finished second in the Northern Division behind the Chicago Sting, defeated the Rochester Lancers 2-1 on a goal in the last second from midfielder Gene Strenicer. They then went to play Chicago in Chicago and won 3-2 on penalty kicks.

This brought them up against the Tampa Bay Rowdies, last year's champions and winners of the Eastern Division over the New York Cosmos for the Atlantic Conference title. Toronto were given little chance of winning in Tampa, but before a crowd of 28,046 Eusebio gave Toronto the lead against the run of play and then Ted Polak added a second to put Toronto into the final.

Minnesota, a team only formed this year, had an excellent season after a slow start, winning the Western Division and attracting large crowds to Bloomington where they played their home games. Freddie Goodwin the former manager of Birmingham City coached the team and can be justly proud of the job he did despite losing the final.

In the play offs Minnesota eliminated the Seattle Sounders 3-0 before 41,405 with goals by Ade Coker (2) and Ron Futcher and then beat the San Jose Earthquakes champions of the Southern Division 3-1 to win the Pacific Division title.

A NASL record crowd for a play off of 49,572 was on hand to see Ntsolenque, Coker and West score for the Kicks while Ilija Mitic

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NORTH AMERICAN SOCCER LEAGUE STANDINGS
(Final)

	P	W	L	F	A	Bonus Pts	Total Points
NORTHERN DIVISION							
Chicago	24	15	9	52	32	42	132
Toronto	24	15	9	38	30	33	123
Rochester	24	13	11	36	32	36	114
Hartford	24	12	12	37	56	35	107
Boston	24	7	17	35	64	32	74
EASTERN DIVISION							
Tampa Bay	24	18	6	58	30	46	154
New York	24	16	8	65	34	52	148
Washington	24	14	10	46	38	42	126
Philadelphia	24	8	16	32	49	32	80
Miami	24	6	18	29	58	27	63
WESTERN DIVISION							
Minnesota	24	15	9	54	33	48	138
Seattle	24	14	10	40	31	39	123
Vancouver	24	14	10	38	30	36	120
Portland	24	8	16	23	40	23	71
St. Louis	24	5	19	28	57	28	58
SOUTHERN DIVISION							
San Jose	24	14	10	47	30	39	123
Dallas	24	13	11	44	45	39	117
Los Angeles	24	12	12	43	44	36	108
San Antonio	24	12	12	38	32	35	107
San Diego	24	9	15	29	47	28	82

(Total points: Win-6pts., Loss-0 pts.: Bonus points — one point is awarded for each goal scored up to a maximum of three per team per game.)

PLAY OFFS

ATLANTIC CONFERENCE					
Northern Division					
Toronto	2	:	Rochester	1	6,872
Chicago	2	:	Toronto	3	8,150
Eastern Division					
New York	2	:	Washington	0	22,698
Tampa Bay	3	:	New York	1	36,863
Final					
Tampa Bay	0	:	Toronto	2	28,046
PACIFIC CONFERENCE					
Western Division					
Seattle	1	:	Vancouver	0	30,406
Minnesota	3	:	Seattle	0	41,405
Southern Division					
Dallas	2	:	Los Angeles	0	9,413
San Jose	2	:	Dallas	0	15,135
Final					
Minnesota	3	:	San Jose	1	49,572
NASL FINAL					
Toronto	3	:	Minnesota	0	25,765

Toronto: Bilecki: Sutevski (Strenicer), Cukon, Blaskovic, Iarusci: Polak, Eusebio, Suhnholz: Ferreira, Lukacevic, Grnja.
Minnesota: Barnett: Litt, Brine, Merrick, Sparaggon: Nisolenque, (Howe), Bick, West: Coker, Futcher, Willey.
Scorers: Eusebio, Lukacevic and Ferreira for Toronto.

scored for San Jose. Only for the World Series of baseball have more fans watched a sporting event at Metropolitan Stadium in Bloomington just outside Minneapolis.

San Jose in reaching the Pacific final against Minnesota had eliminated the Dallas Tornado leaders of the Southern Division for most of the season. However, the Earthquakes came on strong at the close to overtake Dallas and win the division, with Los Angeles finishing third.

The Vancouver Whitecaps finished third in the Western Division behind Minnesota and Seattle, but Vancouver lost their play off game to Seattle in the Kingdome on a goal scored by Geoff Hurst.

Washington, coached by Denis Viollet, finished in third spot in the Eastern Division behind Tampa Bay and New York and lost their play off to the Cosmos 2-0. However the Cosmos were unable to overcome the Rowdies for the second time this season losing 3-1 before 36,863 in Tampa.

Resulted

Up in the Northern Division Rochester pulled themselves up off the bottom to finish third while Hartford improved in late season but just missed the play offs. Boston all but collapsed here losing their last 12 games while coach Hubert Vogelsinger resigned when financial problems resulted in the club selling most of their better players. At the end of the season Boston were drawing just over 500 fans per game.

Miami Toros, who finished bottom of the Eastern Division, have signed Ken Furphy to coach them next season. Furphy, who resigned as coach of the New York Cosmos in mid season after internal problems, takes over from American Dr. Greg Myers.

Giorgio Chinaglia was the league's point getter with 49 but Derek Smethurst of Tampa Bay topped the goalscoring chart with 20 in 24 league games. Pele added another 13 goals to his total but is still over 70 goals behind the world record of 1,329 held by fellow Brazilian Artur Friedenreich.

However, in the end it was Toronto — who didn't even have one player in either of the leagues all star teams — who won the title. In the August WORLD SOCCER I commented that "It is possible for them to go all the way to the final, but as it is they appear to be suffering from a failure to employ orthodox wingers able to turn the corner of the defence."

Well Toronto found a winger in Ivan Grnja from the Yugoslav Second Division club Osijek and it hardly seems likely that he will remain there long. Standing just 5 feet 6 inches Grnja was the spark plug that helped Toronto to the title and there seems little doubt that we will hear a lot more of him.

In addition Toronto added Wolfgang Suhnholz from Boston to their midfield. Suhnholz who was once a regular first team player with Bayern Munich added constructive ability to a midfield that had been lacking in that commodity all season long.

These two missing links added to a potentially fine team turned Toronto from also rans into surprise champions.

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Rocco sad for 'my old Milan'

News from Italy by Keir Radnedge

NEREO ROCCO, kicked upstairs as Milan's presidential adviser, is far from impressed with the club's chances of regaining the *scudetto* after eight years in the cold.

"Pippo Marchioro has changed everything," he said sadly of the new coach. "This is no longer my old Milan. But I suppose everyone has different ideas. Still, when it comes down to it, only one thing counts, putting the ball in the net."

Rocco was angry about the transfer deals effected during the summer.

"I would never have sold Luciano Chiarugi to Napoli," he said. "Chiarugi is a man who really fits in at San Siro.But these new signings, Giorgio Morini and Giorgio Braglia . . . what are they really worth?

"Fabio Capello is a nice player to have in your team. He has good tactical sense. But he doesn't possess the driving force of Romeo Benetti, who's gone to Juventus in exchange. And in my team I would always find a place for Albertino Bigon. Not Marchioro.

"Still, I'm out of it now. My word counts for nothing. I've told the president what I think, but no-one seems to take any notice. Inter reinforced their team better than Milan. With Pietro Anastasi and Claudio Merlo they've done good business. Milan have missed the boat."

After that one is tempted to ask why Rocco stays on? The answer lies in the man's character. He may be tough and blunt. But he is also loyal, and Milan are an integral part of his existence.

First, Rocco will doubtless have a more important role in a year or two's time when Gianni Rivera finally does take over the presidency. Secondly, his loyalty probably forces him to stay around, even though he doesn't agree with the man in charge at the moment, because if anything went wrong Rocco would feel duty bound to pick up the pieces.

Attacking revolution

Certainly Marchioro has gone out of his way to change things — even the numbering system. We've known for some time that Gianni Rivera will wear the No 7 this season, but Marchioro also threatens us with a right back wearing No 4, the two stoppers Nos 2 and 5, only the sweeper a conventional No 6.

That doesn't sound as if he is planning an attacking revolution, even though he is trying to wean his team off the basic Italian man-to-man marking system and impose a zone defence.

It worked promisingly in Milan's first match of the season, the 2-0 win over Catania in a Cup game. Bigon took the No 7 shirt with Rivera injured and scored the first goal on the half hour. Morini made in 2-0 ten minutes from time from a pass by Capello.

But, to be truthful, Catania didn't present much of a test of Marchioro's new era and Ricky Albertosi, now 36, did not have a lot to do.

At least Morini and Capello struck up a good understanding, but the strikers, just Egidio Calloni and Braglia, looked ill at ease. The task of replacing Chiarugi might prove a tough one for the former Napoli winger.

Juventus began their Cup campaign the same day, with a 1-1 draw at Monza. New man Roberto Boninsegna scored the Juve goal, slightly against the run of play. It was Juve's second 1-1 draw of the new season. Several days before they had played host to European champions, Czechoslovakia and come within three minutes of victory.

Marco Tardelli put Juve ahead after quarter of an hour, and Jan Pivarnik didn't squeeze the equaliser past Dino Zoff until just short of time. Teams:

Juventus: Zoff; Scirea; Cuccureddu, F. Morini, Gentile; Furino, Causio, Tardelli (Benetti sub 67), Marchetti II, Boninsegna, Bettega (Geri 67).

Czechoslovakia: Viktor (Michalik ht); Biros (Pivarnik ht), Jurkemik, Dvorak, Gogh, Pollak, Dobias, Panenka (Slany ht); Masny, Moder, Nehoda.

At least the signs for the new season look brighter for Juventus than for neighbours and champions, Torino. Luigi Radice's men made a silly start by running like frightened rabbits in the 0-0 draw in Dublin with the Irish League — a nervy game which finished with the expulsions of midfielders Claudio Sala and Eraldo Pecci.

A week later morale was stunned by another blow — a brain haemorrhage suffered by Radice's second in command, 37-year-old Giorgio Ferrini.

He had always been the iron man and played 433 league games up to 1975 after coming into the team in 1959, the season they climbed back out of the second division.

He also played seven times in midfield for Italy and was involved in the Santiago scandal with Chile in the 1962 World Cup.

It was because of all that, because he had seemed so immovable a part of Torino, that his sudden illness, with days on the danger list, was such a blow, Almost everyone was thinking: "If this can happen to a man like Ferrini. . .."

Board's proposal

Bologna also have their problems, though of a different nature. The team threatened to go on strike rather than play a Cup game with Brescia because of the board's proposal to cut bonuses by half.

It was suggested this would be a good way to demonstrate a spirit of sacrifice to a country going through an economic crisis. It was also suggested half bonuses would improve even more of an incentive for the players to do well, since they would want so many more.

Neither argument appealed and at the time of writing talks are still going on. Bologna have other problems. New coach Gustavo Giagnoni put his men through their pre-season training and then announced his verdict: Too many changes over the past few seasons. But nothing which his particular brand of magic couldn't put right, given time. Or at least, more time than he was given last season at Milan!

Giagnoni's predecessor at Bologna, Bruno Pesaola, is now at Napoli and has spent much of the summer engaged in a war of words with Luis Vinicio, who has gone from Napoli to Lazio.

Pesaola stated bluntly after a few days back in his old haunts that Vinicio had left the team confused and muddled over tactics. Vinicio hit back angrily, but soon had other things to worry about.

Illegal approaches

Lazio, ever staggering from one crisis to another, are in the forefront of a scandal over illegal approaches by intermediaries. They and Vinicio stand accused before the FA of arranging a deal before the old season was out.

Milan, Roma, Verona, Genoa, Torino, Napoli and Palermo are also involved in lesser matters, but the danger for Lazio — having escaped enforced relegation in the Cesena case — is that Vinicio could be banned for a year. And they have enough problems never mind skipper Giuseppe Wilson's comment that they are just a new Giorgio Chinaglia short of putting together another championship team.

Neighbours Roma have less pressing problems. The Pierino Prati saga drags on. He's never seemed at home since his surprising transfer from Milan in 1973. He spent much of last season far from full match fitness and crossed swords with manager Nils Liedholm on a number of occasions.

TRANSFERS

Player	Position	From	To
Jose Altafini*	CF	Juventus	Chiasso
Pietro Anastasi*	CF	Juventus	Inter
Roberto Bacchin	MF	Torino	Novara
Guglielmo Bacci	MF	Roma	Potenza
Gregorio Basilico	Wing	Sambenedettese	Genoa
Alberto Battistoni	Stopper	Roma	Cesena
Franco Battisodo	Sweeper	Sambenedettese	Bologna
Bruno Beatrice	MF	Fiorentina	Cesena
Romeo Benetti*	MF	Milan	Juventus
Fabrizio Berti	Stopper	Perugia	Vicenza
Ezio Bertuzzo	Wing	Bologna	Atalanta
Luigi Boccolini	MF	Napoli	Catanzaro
Simone Boldini	FB	Como	Milan
Fabio Bonci	CF	Genoa	Cesena
Roberto Boninsegna*	CF	Inter	Juventus
Renato Braglia	Wing	Napoli	Milan
Francesco Brignani	MF	Lazio	Palermo
Cesare Butti	MF	Cagliari	Torino
Antonio Cabrini	FB	Atalanta	Juventus
Fabio Capello*	MF	Juventus	Milan
Renato Cappellini*	CF	Como	Chiasso
Walter Caseroli	FB	Roma	Como
Otello Catania	MF	Genoa	Sambenedettese
Sauro Catellani	Stopper	Verona	Napoli
Cesare Catanese	Stopper	Ternana	Verona
Antonio Ceccarini	FB	Catania	Perugia
Roberto Cesati	CF	Inter	Pescara
Luciano Chiarugi*	Wing	Milan	Napoli
Giorgio Chinaglia*	CF	Lazio	NY Cosmos
Francesco Campoli	Stopper	Genoa	Cagliari
Franco Colomba	MF	Modena	Bologna
Bruno Conti	MF	Genoa	Roma
Franco Cordova*	MF	Roma	Verona
Elisio Croci	FB	Genoa	Lecce
Giuseppe Damiani*	Wing	Juventus	Genoa
Luigi Danova	Stopper	Cesena	Torino
Michele de Nadai	Sweeper	Milan	Monza
Agostino di Bartolomei	MF	Vicenza	Roma
Giorgio Ferrara	CF	Brescia	Bologna
Roberto Galbiati	FB	Inter	Pescara
Alberto Ginulfi	GK	Verona	Fiorentina
Mario Giubertoni	Stopper	Inter	Verona
Steno Gola	MF	Ascoli	Fiorentina
Gianfranco Guerrini	FB	Brindisi	Napoli
Viviano Guida	FB	Varese	Inter
Giuseppe Lelj	MF	Sampdoria	Vicenza
Marino Lombardo	FB	Torino	Cesena
Emiliano Macchi	CF	Verona	Fiorentina
Domenico Maggiora	MF	Varese	Roma
Sergio Magistrelli	MF	Sampdoria	Palermo
Fabio Marchini	CF	Pescara	Genoa
Paolo Mariani	Wing	Genoa	Modena
Silvano Martina	GK	Varese	Inter
Antonio Matteoni	Stopper	Modena	Genoa
Claudio Merlo*	MF	Fiorentina	Inter
Ezio Miniguttl	WH	Ascoli	Brescia
Giovanni Mei	FB	Modena	Bologna
Giorgio Morini*	MF	Roma	Milan
Maurizio Moscatelli	GK	Piacenza	Cesena
Pier Giuseppe Mosti	FB	Genoa	Pescara
Carlo Muraro	Wing	Varese	Inter
Giuliano Musiello	CF	Avellino	Roma
Bortolo Mutti	CF	Pescara	Inter
Franco Nanni	FB	Verona	Rimini
Pier Giorgio Negrisolo	Utility	Roma	Verona
Enrico Nicolini	Str	Sampdoria	Catanzaro
Claudio Onofri	Sweeper	Avellino	Genoa
Giuseppe Pallavicini	FB	Torino	Monza
Adelmo Paris	WH	Brescia	Bologna
Fiorino Pape	Sweeper	Palermo	Cesena
Ivo Perissinotto	Str	Cesena	Palermo
Mauro Persiani	MF	Roma	Sorrento
Carlo Petrini	CF	Roma	Verona
Sauro Petrini	Str	Cesena	Sampdoria
Franco Pezzato	Wing	Sampdoria	Ternana
Dario Pighin	Stopper	Palermo	Lazio
Livio Pin	MF	Clodia	Perugia
Doriano Pozzato	MF	Como	Bologna
Maurizio Restelli	MF	Vicenza	Fiorentina
Nicola Ripa	Wing	Sambenedettese	Foggia
Renzo Rossi	Wing	Como	Lazio
Giovanni Roccotelli	MF	Torino	Cagliari
Marco Rossinelli	FB	Juventus	Fiorentina
Gianluigi Savoldi II	Str	Spal	Sampdoria
Pier Paolo Scarrone	MF	Bari	Milan
Felice Secondini	FB	Piacenza	Genoa
Valerio Spadoni	Str	Roma	Rimini
Walter Speggiorin	Utility	Fiorentina	Napoli
Antonio Speriotto	CF	Napoli	Catanzaro
Franco Superchi	GK	Fiorentina	Verona
Evert Stoglind	Str	Sant Angelo	Inter
Franco Tancredi	GK	Milan	Rimini
Nerio Ulivieri	CF	Brindisi	Foggia
Giovanni Urban	CF	Cesena	Genoa
William Vecchi*	GK	Cagliari	Milan
Roberto Vichi	Sweeper	Catanzaro	Roma
Claudio Vinazzani	MF	Massese	Napoli
Francesco Vincenzi	Str	Milan	Foggia
Alessandro Zagano	Stopper	Piacenza	Fiorentina
Sergio Zuccheri	FB	Cesena	Lecce

(Only transfers involving a first division club have been listed; * — signifies an international).

At the moment he's been put in isolation because of a dispute over his new contract. Nereo Rocco would love to see him back at Milan, but sadly, Rocco, as we have seen, no longer has the power to go out and buy.

Liedholm recently had the chance of a film part. But since it was the role of a German colonel in a war film, it's hardly surprising that the cool Swede gave the idea a wide berth.

Not hard to understand, either, why Sandro Mazzola grew so upset recently at reports that he was ready to quit his new-found place on the Internazionale board. Mazzola blamed a misunderstanding with a journalist, others, not so generous, muttered darkly about mischief makers daring to meddle just when it looks as if Inter are starting to put together a team able to challenge for the title.

One man who has given up this summer, though, is Cagliari's Brazilian, Nene. He came to Italy from Santos, where he was Pele's deputy, in 1963. He stayed one season with Juventus, playing at centre forward, but it was in an inside forward's role that he found his feet after switching to Cagliari.

He played more than 400 games for the Sardinians, including 28 matches (with just three goals) in the 1969-70 championship year. It was Nene, along with Angelo Domenghini and Bobo Gori, who kept Gigi Riva supplied with the passes which spelt so many goals.

Now he'll be teaching others to do the same, for he continues as a youth coach with Cagliari — now in the second division — until at least the end of the season.

News from Poland

SZARMACH FOR STAL MIELEC?

REIGNING CHAMPIONS Stal Mielec duly released centre forward Jan Domarski to play professionally in France and to replace him tried to obtain the services of Gornik Zabrze striker Andrzej Szarmach.

Although the transfer is expected to go through, Polish press reports that Stal offered Szarmach a comparatively large sum of money under the counter . . . "commercialising Polish sport" . . . as the press put it.

Szarmach missed the start of the season with Gornik preferring to leave him out of their side and under the regulations, unless he gets his official release card from Gornik, he could be suspended for one year before being allowed to play for Stal.

Before the league programme began, the Poles played the first round proper of their FA Cup and two of the best known sides found themselves in difficulties against unknown opposition. Legia Warsaw just managed to scrape through 1-0 (Wladyslaw Dabrowski) against Division II Avia Swidnik, but the bigger surprise was Third Division Orzel Lodz beating former champions Ruch Chorzow 2-0.

Equalised

Ruch got off to an equally poor start in their first league game at home to Widzew Lodz, trailing 0-1 early on. Then Albin Wira equalised and captain Zygmunt Maszczyk got what proved to be the winner just before the break and Ruch hung on.

Then came a needle game, the annual visit of Zabrze where Gornik, without Szarmach hammered, Ruch 3-0 with goals from Alojzy Deja, Zygmunt Bindek and Stanislaw Gzil. The key man was inside forward Zygfryd Szoltysik, a well known former international but now 33. He had scored Gornik's goal the previous week when they lost 1-2 away to Szombierki in Bytom.

Ruch then recovered some of the aplomb at home to Pogon Szczecin but were fortunate to get a first minute goal when stopper Jerzy Wyrobek went upfield to head home from a corner. Jan Benigier completed the scoring in the second half to give Ruch a 2-0 win.

Legia Warsaw, the Polish army team, were Ruch's next opponents, another needle match in which Ruch were a little fortunate to get away with a point.

Though Legia have flopped in the last year or two, Ruch are clearly going through a poor spell themselves and they looked in trouble when Tadeusz Nowak gave Legia an early lead.

Zygmunt Maszczyk, captain of Ruch Chorzow.

Ruch's point was gained for them by a young full back Andrzej Baran leaving the strikers still to get a goal. Ruch continued with another tough game at home to GKS Tychy who almost took the championship last year, but Tychy too have got off to a disappointing start and goals from Bronislaw Bula and Jozef Kopicera gave the home side a 2-0 win that puts Ruch in third place, one point behind co-leaders Odra Opole (newly promoted) and Slask Wroclaw who each have 8 points from their first five games.

GKS Tychy owe a great deal to their international centre forward Roman Ogaza who looks to be in line for Szarmach's spot in the national team if he is suspended. Starting away to Zaglebie Sosnowiec, Tychy trailed 0-1 for a long time before Ogaza earned them a point with a late goal. Then at home to Odra, the shock team of the campaign so far, they were again losing 0-1 when Ogaza chipped in the equaliser with 19 minutes left.

Wisla Krakow have a useful looking young team and were expected to mount a real challenge this season, but they too got off to a poor start. Held to a 1-1 draw at home by Pogon and then beaten 1-0 by Legia in Warsaw, Wisla and Tychy met at the third hurdle in what was a critical match for both sides. Wisla managed to prevent Ogaza getting his usual goal and won 3-1 after dominating the play with goals from Marek Kusto, Kazimierz Kmiecik and Krzysztof Budka.

Having got the edge over Tychy, Wisla went on to consolidate their position drawing 3-3 away to ROW Rybnik. After a goal-less first half Wisla led 2-0 soon after the break but the goals came at regular intervals. Zdzislaw Kapka got his first goal of the season and Kusto chipped in with another but new right winger Michal Wrobel made a big impression with the first goal. Wrobel then put up a fine performance at home to Lech Poznan, helping himself to a hat-trick in a 4-1 win that put Wisla within two points of the leaders in fifth place. Only 19 years old he must have drawn the attention of Jacek Gmoch, Poland's new international team manager.

Grzegorz Lato and his club Stal Mielec also got away to a disappointing start and seem unlikely to trouble Real Madrid in the European Cup. Lato has scored only two goals, both coming in the 2-0 home win over Gornik Zabrze. That was their first win however for at home to Slask. Stal were a little fortunate to draw 1-1 and then three days later they crashed 1-3 away to Widzew Loda with all four goals coming in the last twenty minutes.

Stal continued with a 0-0 draw away to Pogon and then at home to Legia they drew their third game in five matches, even though Ryszard Sekulski gave them a flying start with a goal after only six minutes. Stal and Lato are well below their best and clearly the arrival of Szarmach could do much to lift them. Lato personally is well below his 1974 World Cup form and their start makes them only an average team — 5 points from 5 games for a goals tally of 5 for and 5 against.

Three men share top spot in the scorers race, Janusz Sybis of Slask Wroclaw; Wojciech Tyc (Odra Opole), and Michal Wrobel of Wisla Krakow all have four goals while several others including Roman Ogaza (GKS Tychy) and Wisla's Marek Kusto have three and Lato stays on 2.

USSR not at the top

compiled by Eric Batty

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Algeria	1	—	1	—	2	2
Argentina	5	1	2	2	3	4
Austria	10	5	1	4	13	11
Belgium	3	3	—	—	6	1
Brazil	4	—	1	3	2	8
Bulgaria	13	6	6	1	20	10
Chile	6	4	1	1	10	4
Colombia	2	1	1	—	5	3
Cyprus	2	2	—	—	9	1
Czechoslovakia	8	4	2	2	14	11
Denmark	6	6	—	—	24	5
Eire	4	3	—	1	5	5
El Salvador	3	3	—	—	5	0
England	7	1	3	3	7	14
Estonia	1	1	—	—	4	2
Finland	5	4	1	—	20	4
France	6	2	2	2	12	10
Germany (East)	5	2	2	1	7	6
Germany (West)	6	2	—	4	7	13
Greece	4	4	—	—	10	2
Holland	1	—	—	1	1	3
Hungary	12	6	4	2	16	10
India	4	4	—	—	22	1
Indonesia	2	1	1	—	4	0
Ireland (north)	4	2	2	—	4	1
Israel	2	2	—	—	7	1
Italy	6	3	2	1	5	2
Korea (North)	1	1	—	—	3	0
Luxembourg	1	1	—	—	3	1
Mexico	8	1	7	—	3	1
Morocco	1	—	1	—	1	1
Norway	2	2	—	—	8	2
Peru	3	2	1	—	4	0
Poland	5	3	—	2	13	4
Portugal	2	—	—	2	1	3
Romania	3	1	2	—	5	3
Scotland	2	2	—	—	3	0
Spain	3	1	1	1	3	3
Sweden	11	4	4	3	25	12
Switzerland	4	2	2	—	9	5
Turkey	15	10	2	3	31	18
Uruguay	7	6	—	1	14	5
Wales	2	1	—	1	3	3
Yugoslavia	13	8	4	1	25	12
Totals	215	117	56	42	398	207

FEW PEOPLE will need telling that in many sports the Soviet Union is in a dominant position, the result no doubt of investing a great deal of time and money into special sports schools and universities. In ice hockey, gymnastics and figure skating, participants from other countries are seldom allowed to get amongst the medals and in most other sports covering the Olympics, the Russians have more than their share of gold, and an apparently endless stream of youngsters following the honoured masters of sport.

But in football the Russians have gone so far and then been baulked, though it is difficult to say exactly why. Many of their critics blame the Soviet system, suggesting that it is the brilliant individualists that the Russians lack — the result of too much organisation and too heavy an emphasis on discipline and team play. But other countries lack individuals with 'flair' — not least England, France and Italy — while over the years the appearance of Sergei Salnikov, Eduard Streltsov and Oleg Blokhin are the proof that this theory doesn't hold water. There may be something in it, but this criticism cannot be the only reason why the Russian game has failed to make a real impact in international competition.

The long Russian winter is a serious obstacle to all Russian clubs in the European Cup etc, preventing their champions playing on their own grounds (if they qualify) at the critical quarter final and semi final stages. But the national team are better off, able to travel abroad to warmer climates to play together in the early part of the year. The Russian national team is better placed than England for example in one vital respect — that league games can be cancelled at will and players can be called up whenever the national team chief wants them, but despite this advantage they have been no more successful than England in the last fifteen years.

My earliest opportunity to see the Russian national team was in 1945 when labelled Moscow Dynamo, they came to Britain and made a great impression. That without doubt was a very fine team indeed, *with outstanding individuals*, but they followed that tour with around ten years of isolation, the result we are told of Stalinist policies which barred sporting contacts with Western Europe.

Undoubtedly that pegged the Russians back, but they have been back in open competition long enough now for that to have worked out of their system. True, in 1964 the Russians won the European Championship for national teams beating Yugoslavia after extra time in Paris, in the final. But in that competition, countries like England, West Germany and many more, declined to take part on the grounds that in addition to the World Cup they thought this new competition superfluous.

More recently, the Russians reached the European final in 1972 but were outclassed by West Germany who beat them 4-1 in a friendly not long before the final and 3-0 in Brussels. Russia were a strong side, but like everyone else at that period they couldn't match the class and ability of Beckenbauer, Muller, Netzer and Co.

Also in 1972, the Russians took part in Brazil's Mini-World Cup, beat Uruguay by 1-0, but losing 0-1 to both Argentina and Portugal. That sparked off a downturn for in 1973 the Russians won 3, drew 2 and lost 5 games including a 1-2 defeat at home in Moscow to England and another 0-1 defeat at home to Brazil. Then they were held 0-0 by Chile in Russia.

In 1974, the Russians played things quiet, playing only four games of which they won only one and then came the rise of Dynamo Kiev who took over the role of national team in 1975 and promised a great deal. Initially everything went like a bomb with 1975 bringing 5 wins, one draw and only one defeat but during the winter of 1975-76 something seemed to go very badly wrong.

Perhaps the players were asked to to too much, playing in the European Cup as Dynamo Kiev and playing together as the USSR. Certainly they had a good side with outstanding players like Viktor Kolotov, Oleg Blokhin and Vladimir Muntjan and it is my belief that at least in part, they failed because manager Valerij Lobanovsky was too cautious. With good attacking players available why play defensively as he did in so many games?

This may not have been the only error of judgement, it may not have been all due to Lobanovsky but the fact is that thus far in 1976 the Russians have won 2, drawn 3 and lost 2 . . . losing 0-1 at home to Argentina and 0-2 away to Czechoslovakia and then failing to do better than draw 2-2 in Kiev against the Czechs in the European Championship quarter finals.

Given a reasonable breathing space, that led to Lobanovsky's resignation and subsequently brought Nikita Simonian out of semi-retirement. A former international player with Spartak Moscow, Simonian was Gavril Katchalin's assistant in the 1970 World Cup and at club level took Moscow Spartak and previously unknown Ararat (Jerevan) to the Russian championship. Then he returned to Moscow to become a Vice President of their FA.

At this time, the Russians have yet to play under Simonian, but knowing him I would think he must be among the most intelligent and capable football men at the Russian's disposal and his appointment is a very wise decision. If he cannot get their national team off the ground with players like Kolotov, Blokhin and the very promising Leonid Burjak . . . and perhaps some of the players who won the 1976 European Under 23 championship for the USSR then no one can.

Looking at Soccer with Brian Glanville

Macdonald – a splendid club player but not at a higher level

THE MORE one thinks about recent eventualities both here and abroad, the more one feels that the chief trouble with managers is . . . directors. The strangeness of many of the appointments which have been made remind one of Len Shackleton's famous chapter . "The Average Director's Knowledge of Soccer," in his autobiography CLOWN PRINCE OF SOCCER. It consisted of a blank page. Take, first, the goings-on in North London. Arsenal, having decided, scarcely to my own regret, to part company with Bertie Mee, tried and failed to acquire Miljan Miljanic from Real Madrid. This, I must say at once, seemed a commendable and enterprising move, though how serious the wily Miljanic ever was about wanting to come remains eternally a matter for speculation. Was he really prepared to turn down the £90,000 per annum which he eventually got from Real for somewhat less than a third of that at Highbury; and with an immeasurably smaller chance of escaping heavy taxes?

Arsenal were then alleged to try David Sexton, another sound choice, once their respected coach, now the admirable manager of Queens Park Rangers, and the former QPR player, Terry Venables.

Having failed on both fronts, they eventually appointed their old centre-half-back Terry Neil, who had coincidentally just resigned from neighbouring Tottenham Hotspur. Whereupon the directors of Tottenham, manifestly piqued, prevented Keith Burtenshaw, the Tottenham coach, from following Neill down the road to Highbury by making him their own manager. The implication, fairly plainly, was that they felt Burkinshaw was the man who had delivered the goods; or whatever goods there were.

I mean no disparagement to Neill or Burkinshaw when I say their appointments were unexpected. Neill is an old and very friendly acquaintance; I like him, I find him sympathetic and intelligent, I would be delighted were he to succeed stupendously as a manager. Perhaps he will, but on his record so far, it is almost impossible to judge. . . .

Disrepair

He began well with Hull City, but did not maintain the rhythm; yet what manager ever has done, since the days of Raich Carter? He took over a Spurs team which, with due deference to the tendency prematurely to canonise Billy Nicholson, was in a awful state of disrepair. That team he somehow managed to keep in the First Division, which was a substantial feat in itself. Last season, when Burkinshaw arrived, the team did somewhat better, though it was still a very long way from being brilliant.

At Highbury, Neill has inherited another team in an advanced state of disintegration, the likes of Simpson, Armstrong, Storey, Radford and Ball sliding over the hill, a paucity of really talented youngsters to take their place. Neil promptly, shrewdly and enterprisingly signed Malcolm Macdonald, who Spurs wanted, too; for which coup I think he deserves praise. Macdonald never will be an international centre-forward (it was perhaps unfortunate that I should see that awful, clean-through miss against Sunderland immediately after watching numerous re-runs of Vesely the Czech and Uli Hoeness beautifully running round a goalkeeper to score) but it is equally undeniable that he's a splendid club player, one of the most formidable scorers of his time. I don't think that even *this* season will really tell us how good Terry Neill is, precisely because he has inherited such a poor collection of players; which was no doubt one of the main reasons why he put himself out to buy Macdonald — and the insurance of a natural goal scorer. But on his past record, I repeat, there were other managers whose claims appeared more solid.

And Burkinshaw? His only previous managerial experience was with Workington. Till now he has been essentially a coach, and while some coaches take to the management like ducks to water, many fall by the wayside; c.f. Don Howe in his move from Arsenal to West Bromwich Albion. My own feeling was that in George Petchey of Orient and Andy Nelson of Charlton London had two of the most promising and able young managers in the game, each an East Londoner to boot, but though Nelson's name was associated with the Tottenham job and I myself canvassed Petchey for the job at Highbury (perhaps for that very reason . . .) neither was selected.

At Wolves, the directors sacked Bill McGarry, and promptly appointed his coach, Sammy Chung. By the time you read this Chung may have proved himself the finest manager since Herbert Chapman, but on the face of it, this was a baffling decision. If Wolves had gone down with a bang to the Second Divison, as indeed they had, it made some sense to get rid of the manager; but why promptly promote his second in command, a mans aid, in any case, to be very much an echo of himself? Are we to deduce that if McGarry had not been there, Chung would have led Wolves out of the wilderness? The word, I repeat, is baffling.

Let us go further afield, though the manager involved is still an Englishman. When the New York Cosmos decided they would not go on with Gordon Bradley, their ex-player, as the coach — or manager, as we would call it — they decided to appoint . . . Ken Furphy. His salary, I understand, was some $50,000 a year. He had just been booted off the sinking ship of Sheffield United. His reputation, however distinguished, was never that of easy camaraderie. "Dour" was the word more often associated with him. Was it fair and sensible to plummet so provincial a figure into the maelstrom of New York, into a club almost as cosmopolitan as the city itself, where Pele rules; O.K?

At all events, it didn't work; on every level. My New York informants, very close to the team, tell me that tactics, even when Chinaglia arrived from Lazio, became

AFTER A month of coaching by Malcolm Allison, Galatasaray of Turkey pulled off a notable victory by beating AIK of Stockholm in Sweden in the first leg of their European Cup Winner Cup tie. After the game Allison said: "We deserved to win because we tackled bravely against the tough Swedes. When we were down 1-0 I insisted that the team stayed calm like most English teams and not become demoralised." Allison is pictured with his players before the trip to Sweden.

excessively cautious, Pele and Chinaglia up, most of the others back, Mitflin the Peruvian star actually dropped from a midfield stuffed with modest English players. The President of the Cosmos, Clive Toye, once of the *Daily Express*, knows — or knew — his English football, which makes the matter more bewildering. The team became tense and anxious. Pele's displeasure was eventually made known. Furphy went. Bradley resumed the reins.

Forgotten

In Lisbon, they began the season with two English managers. Portugal, after all, are our oldest ally. Jimmy Hagan, that great inside-forward of the forties, who had done well with Benfica though a forgotten man in England, was recalled to manage Sporting Club. At Benfica, the big, bland Negro, Mario Wilson, was discarded, and his job given to . . . John Mortimer, himself discarded by Portsmouth, hell bent for the Third Division. Good luck to Mortimer, a likeable fellow and probably a very good coach, but to fail at Portsmouth and promptly to be engaged by one of the most famous clubs in Europe . . . Where is the logic of it all?

One could go on at some length, not least about what happened in Italy, where Milan sacked their manager and old left-half Giovanni Trapattoni . . . who was promptly engaged by the still most celebrated and successful Juventus. Curiouser and curiouser. Good luck to all those newly appointed managers I have mentioned. Some of them may need it more than others. As for the directors . . . well, Len Shackleton himself is a director now. I wonder how, at the end of his first season with Fulham, he would rewrite that chapter. If at all.

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News from Switzerland

NATIONAL LEAGUE IS REORGANISED

SWISS FOOTBALL entered one of the most important seasons in its entire history. The bold reorganisation of the National League, with a completely new and indeed unique system of deciding the championship and relegation issues, could make or break League soccer in that country.

In effect, the First Division — called Nationalliga A — has been reduced to twelve clubs. These will play each other home and away in 22 normal rounds as until now. But then the top six clubs will form an "upper pool", to which they will take *half* the points total gained in the first phase of the championship, with them! Playing each other again home and away, the winners of this "Super League" will be the champions. The other six teams will form a "lower group", from which the last pair will be relegated, to the National League B. (Second Division).

Whether such a method will catch on with the public remains of course to be seen. One thing is certain: It will have little bearing on the balance of power. The top clubs, who have cornered most of the talent, will retain that position of strength, whilst the poorer clubs will get poorer still.

Not many Swiss clubs can afford to engage foreign stars, even those who are past their best, but with a famous name to draw the crowds. Grasshoppers, for instance, secured the services of the former West German international schemer Günter Netzer, who left Real Madrid and will most likely end his career in Switzerland, for he is after all 32 now. At a salary of 200,000 Francs (£45,000) a year, the former idol of Germany could still put a few thousand on the gate here, but playing-wise he is only half the footballer he was, say in 1972.

Refused

The same can be said of 31-year-old Martin Chivers, who joined Servette of Geneva for £80,000. The former Tottenham and England centre-forward could not find another English club to take him and he claims that Tottenham refused to let him go to another London club!

Chivers, who gained 24 caps for England, impressed at the start of the season in the Alpine Cup and in the League Cup with his physique and scoring ability, but in the Cup Winners Cup preliminary round against Cardiff City he was a big disappointment as Servette went out, albeit only on the "away-goals-count-double" rule (0-1, 2-1).

In the opening League match Servette annihilated newly promoted Bellinzona by 10-0 — without Chivers, who was absent through injury. The start to the championship also saw the title holders FC Zürich in great form. A 6-1 home win over Xamax Neuchatel launched the Zürcher outfit on another successful campaign. Their reservoir of players is so great, that even the cartilage operation which put international defender Pius Fischbach out of action for weeks, or the departure of their Yugoslav-born striker Ilja Katic (to Burgos, Spain) have hardly weakened their ranks.

The champions signed immediately a German midfielder Hanjo Weller from VfB Stuttgart, who should provide the "bite", as ball-winner, next to the veteran Köbi Kuhn and the youngsters Botteron and Scheiwiler. Zürich's chief rivals will be Servette, who apart from Chivers also signed the international schemer Umberto Barberis.

Now Servette boast virtually half the national team and it will be interesting to see whether they can mount a real challenge for the title.

Other clubs to strengthen their squads were Basel, who signed the German forward Lauscher from FC Cologne; Young Boys of Berne also in the German market capturing the utility player Lorenz from Eintracht Frankfurt and FC Sion, who tempted the Yugoslav Djordjic from Partizan Belgrade. Of the Swiss stars to move were centre-forward Fritz Künzli, who left Winterthur for Lausanne, the international midfielder Hasler (Basel to Xamax) and goalkeeper Deck, who after a spell in Greece and Germany returned from VfB Stuttgart to join Winterthur.

For the national team the "moment of truth" is approaching rapidly. The Swiss opened their World Cup qualifying series with a visit to Norway early in September. The main rivals are Sweden in this relatively "easy" group, if one compares it to say, Scotland, Wales and European champions Czechoslovakia (!) who are fighting it out in another section.

Rarely have the Swiss had such a great chance of reaching the World Cup finals as now. As part of their preparations the national team played Bulgaria in Lucerne. After a 2-0 lead by the 19th minute, the Helvetians unnecessarily lost concentration and at the end were glad to save a 2-2 draw!

Künzli, back in the side after an absence of three-and-a-half years scored one of the goals, but after moaning and groaning about the lack of strikers, now it was the defence which came in for some scathing criticism!

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News from Hungary by LESLIE VERNON

Kovacs says Magyars will be surprise team of next World Cup competition

STEFAN KOVACS, the distinguished coach first of Ajax and then the French national team, has recently made an astonishing statement.

During his visit to Athens, he said: "Hungary will be the surprise team of the next World Cup. Three years ago, I said that the Czechs had a team of great potential. I was proved right. Now, I forecast that shortly the Hungarians will once again dominate European football."

Whether Kovacs merely meant to frighten the Greeks who are in the same group as the Magyars in the World Cup qualifying competition, or whether he really believes in a great Hungarian football renaissance is a puzzle. But whatever the motives, such credentials are very pleasing, although they also place an additional burden on the players.

I regret to report, however, that the early rounds of the league season haven't shown any marked improvement, and apart from one or two games the standard has been mediocre. Increasing the number of teams to eighteen from sixteen hasn't helped — the gap is still too wide between the leading contenders and the minnows, and too many of the games provide an easy ride for the likes of Fradi, Dozsa, etc.

Foreign

The pre-season "Champions Cup" was won by Ujpest Dozsa, who beat Raba Eto 5-1 in the Final with the help of a Fazekas hat-trick. Still, no-one takes this artificial competition too seriously — the clubs (and the players!) would much rather go on lucrative and interesting foreign tours instead.

Nevertheless, when I was in Budapest during the summer, members of the footballing fraternity were proudly telling me that for the first time ever, there are *five* genuine Championship candidates.

Let us see how these top teams fared in their first six matches.

Ujpest Dozsa. 12 points. The lilac-and-whites made a tremendous start to the season. Coach Pal Varhidi in his attempt to rejuvenate the squad, has also devised a newish style of play. He signed the 22-year-old Ferencvaros discard, Tamas Viczko, to fill the long-standing vacancy on the right flank of the defence, uses Andras Sarlos (23) and the more experienced Ede Dunai as centre-backs, and young Torocsik is the central striker between Fazekas and Fekete. It all adds up to a flexible 3-3-4 formation, with the accent heavily placed on attack. Dozsa have scored 21 goals so far, and their most important win was against Videoton (2-1). The veteran Antal Dunai, who is usually a reserve these days, was given an emotional outing against newly promoted Dorog to celebrate his 325th appearance in the league. Suitable to the occasion, he got one of Dozsa's goals (his 200th!) in the 3-0 win.

Ferencvaros. 11 points. Following their poor showing in the Champions Cup, Fradi dropped a point at Gyor in their first league match, and the "backstabbers" began to bury them. But the Dalnoki boys came back immediately and won their next five games. As these victories included three local derbies (MTK/VM — 4-1, Honved — 2-0, Vasas — 3-2), one can say that the green-and-whites remain the No. 1 favourites. The match against the revitalised Vasas was an excellent game.

Defence

At first, Vasas dominated by marking the dangerous Fradi midfielders out of the game, but an unfortunate mix-up in their defence gave Ferencvaros an undeserved half-time lead (Komjati o.g.) Szabo and Ebedli scored further goals on the hour — by that time, the Nyilasi-led madfield had given Fradi territorial advantage. Varadi, from a penalty, and Kovacs made the score 3-2, but this was a reassuring win for the champions.

Vasas. 10 points. Traditionally slow starters, Rudolf Illovszky's team have surprised everyone with their confident football this term. At last the dressing room difficulties are sorted out — even such notorious mischief-makers as goalkeepers Meszaros, and forward Varadi are obeying instructions, and stay at home at nights. Right full-back Torok is quite outstanding, and is back in the national team. Youngsters Gass and Izso are beginning to blossom into truly class players.

Honved. 8 points. No matter who the manager is, or how many new players join the Army-team, they seem to be a permanent disappointment. Defeat against Fradi, and draws at such places as Bekescsaba and Dorog, do not auger well for the rest of the campaign. With Miklos Kozma now fully recovered, and the ex-Raba player Poczik in midfield, manager Lakat was looking forward to a much better start.

Videoton. 6 points. The shock team of last season, when they were in contention for the title until the last ball was kicked, proved to be the shock team of this — admittedly young — season as well. But for an entirely different reason. They are inconsistent, unreliable and unenthusiastic. A 7-0 win over Szeged was followed by a defeat, a 5-2 win at Bekescsaba by another set-back.

In fact, at present, Haladas (9 points) are the top provincial club, but surely they do not have championship winning pretensions. So, the pre-season optimism seems to be unrealistic. There are only two gold-plated candidates for the league — Dozsa and Fradi, with Vasas the outsiders.

ERIC THORNTON'S SOCCER NOTEBOOK

Famous names to step down...

EVERY YEAR sees another bunch off. More retirement from top class soccer. Some move into backroom jobs, others follow the trail out of the game. That's exactly what happened again last summer, when, I'm sorry to report, most of the old idols of other days were not even afforded a subdued roll of drums.

More than 400 annually quit the League circle in England alone, and further statistics supplied to me by the Scottish and Irish associations suggest that such an overall figure could be trebled.

Not all are well known, of course. A large section of that vanishing 'army' means little or nothing outside its own immediate area. Very often, it is necessary to chew over pen pictures in match programmes to discover their backgrounds.

On the other hand, the dear departed generally include a hard core of established stars who have known the glory, and made international grading before quietly slipping out of the big squads, and concentrating on club spots.

Careers

Worry and sadness usually provide the mixed cocktails at the end of the great careers. That has been my experience through close connection with dozens of famous farewells in many parts of Britain.

I remember organising a tribute game to Bert Trautmann. There was a continuous thread of personal fear about their own futures running through all the letters from topliners invited to take part.

That was in 1964. And if you love to deal in bygones, I'll give you the names of just a few of those who helped entertain a 45,000 Maine Road crowd on behalf of that fantastic goalkeeper's own charity.

Here they are: Stan Matthews, Bobby Charlton, Derek Kevan, Jimmy Armfield, Ray Wilson, Albert Quixall, Ron Springett, Denis Law, Noel Cantwell, Ronnie Clayton, Jimmy Murray, Maurice Setters and Bobby Johnstone.

All were former 'caps' of one country or another. All spent the pre-match get-together talking about other days. And they continued doing exactly that afterwards in a riot of nostalgia.

Coming up to date once more, Alan Mullery was the big name out of a job after last season. The former England and Fulham skipper, and last year's Footballer-of-the Year, said he was moving out "because I don't want to doodle along, getting nowhere, and anyway it's time to give the youngsters a chance."

They were fine sentiments from one of soccer's good guys. Everybody was happy when Alan, who made 750 appearances for Spurs and The Cottagers, suddenly chased down to Brighton, and was handed a promotion brief by the ambitious Hove outfit.

Inspired

Colin Harvey's next on the list. The man who once inspired fans to carry banners around Goodison proclaiming him "The White Pele", has called it a day, and said goodbye to Sheffield Wednesday, who paid Everton £70,000 for him two years ago.

It was a quiet farewell. In direct contrast to Sept, 1963, when he made a magnificent European Cup debut against Inter-Milan in the San Siro Stadium, as a mere 18-year-old.

Another who has gone through the exit is Ian Porterfield. You may remember him as the scoring hero of Sunderland's sensational Cup victory over Leeds, three years ago. He has been fighting an uphill battle against injuries, and feels he has not been fully maintaining personal set standards.

The break up of Manchester City's wonderful family partnership makes the final chapter. Because long-serving Alan Oakes has moved to Chester, while, at the same time, younger cousin Glyn Pardoe, also complete with Cup and League medals, has stepped down.

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DOCHERTY TALKS OF BRIGHT FUTURE

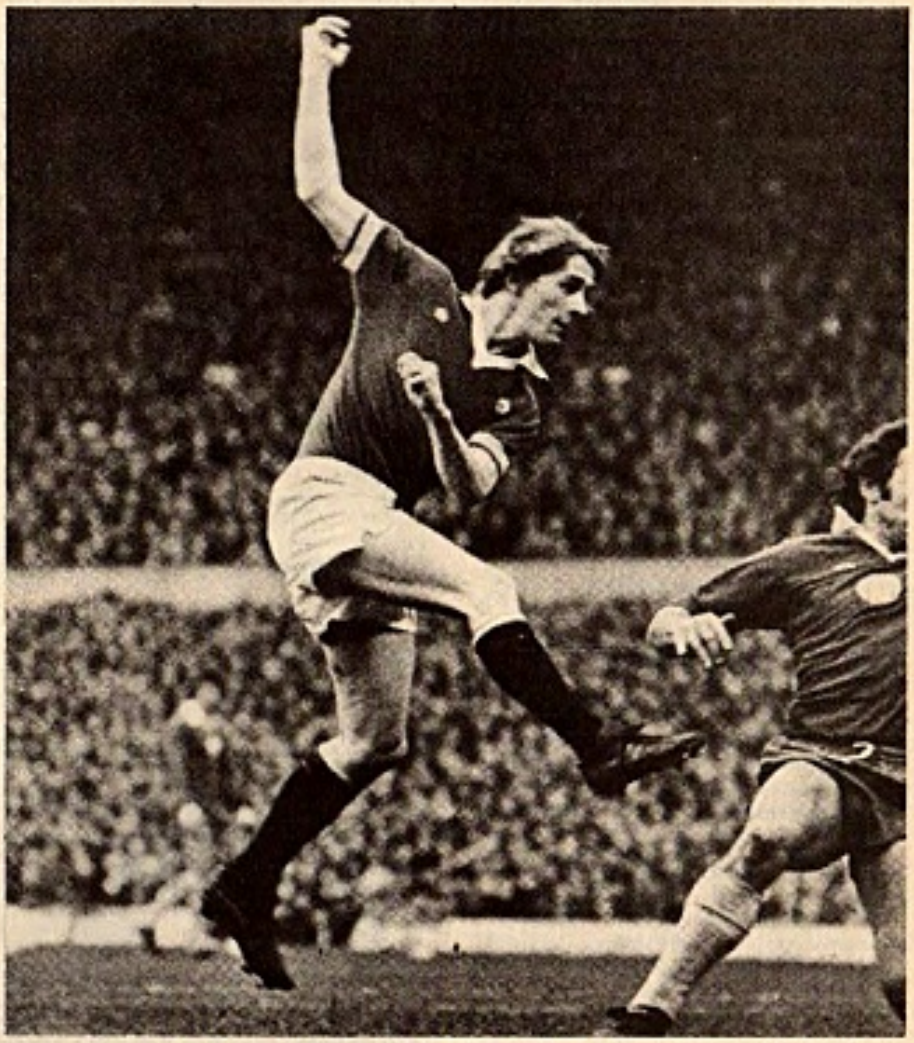
TOMMY DOCHERTY has never had much time for upturned teacups. Or fortune forecasting systems of any kind. A fact easily understandable in a clear thinking Scot who, like Dad, has had to earn all the coppers.

Which is why one gave more than ordinary attention when the former wing half, who played with the best at club and international levels over successive decades, spent part of last winter quietly inferring that by the gospel according to T.D. his boys might not win the championship.

That was the old tune, of course. The new score possesses a completely different air. Listen these days to the 48-year-old soccer nomad and its odds you'll be converted to the firm belief that Manchester United are almost certs for a prize this time round.

Glancing back at the supporting evidence — a young squad which, already containing 14 internationals, reached Wembley, last May, and finished third to Liverpool in the title stakes — he now says: "I can't see us failing to be a great team, and getting better all the time."

And he adds, rather pleasantly: "I accept that people will be expecting us to achieve success now we've established ourselves in the game, once more, and I certainly hope we'll play as well as last season, and entertain the crowds."



Gerry Daly of Manchester United . . . one of their bargain captures.

Possession

Excellent opinions for starters. And deserving the closest examination when representing the thoughts of someone who has been around more than just a bit. For, come boy and man, The Doc's clubs range from The Clyde to The Thames, and have included Celtic, Preston, Arsenal, Chelsea, Rotherham, Queen's Park Rangers, Aston Villa, Oporto and Hull City.

Not surprisingly, he was a tough number as a player. Even old team-mates still recall the determination and eagerness for possession of a man who was always aiming for the summit.

Former Deepdale colleagues such as Willie Cunningham, Tom Finney, Charlie Wayman, Bob Beattie, Eddie Quigley and Bobby Langton always said he never gave less than 100 per cent.

The same magnificent reference used to be paid by Dave Bowen, Bill Dodgin, Jack Bloomfield, David Herd and Jack Kelsey when they were all in the Highbury camp.

Some players have been less kind. Particularly one or two who were at Stamford Bridge "rest home for old crocks" when he breezed in. Around the time when it was also said the biggest cheer was for the hot pies at half-time. The Doc changed all that, turning it into a Hell camp for shirkers, and announcing that any objectors to the new style would be transferred as soon as he could pick up the phone.

They hailed him as the new Messiah, when following in the steps of the old master, Frank O'Farrell. But nevertheless, United tobogganned into the Second Division. Yet he stayed the course, bounced 'em back into the top circle, and has since restored the famous Busby image.

He considers £100,000 transfers generally prove to be "money poured down the drain". That opinion was emphasised by the snapping up of Colin Waldron, from Burnley, on a free transfer, and the paying of only £25,000 for Alan Foggon, whose goals, after all, helped Newcastle win the Fairs Cup, then took Middlesbrough back into the First Division.

Foggon was playing American soccer when the United chief phoned from Montreal, and he said afterwards: "Dashing over the border to sign was simply nothing, because I'd have swum to Manchester if necessary."

The cash side has levelled itself out, as it needed to. Almost £1m was spent in that unavailing fight against relegation, and there was a 2-year loss of nearly £650,000. But within the last three years, the Old Trafford outfit has rung up profits totalling £432,500. And season ticket sales for this campaign have neared £¾m. Even in these days that's money!

Wellington are worthy winners

reports from New Zealand

IT WAS appropriate that in a season that produced much mundane and uninspiring soccer, a mundane and uninspiring side, Wellington Diamond United should emerge as National League champions.

W. D. U. who only regained their National League status last season, proved to be strong and tenacious, often fighting back from being one or two goals down to gain victory by simply grinding down the opposition.

Auckland club Mount Wellington finished in the runners-up spot, four points behind W. D. U. and completing the season with a six match winning streak that included a 3-0 win over the eventual champions.

Third place was occupied by Caversham, a disappointment for the Dunedin club who headed the table for the majority of the season only to forfeit a five point advantage, mainly due to a chronic run of injuries.

Sponsorship

Last year's league and cup "double" champions Christchurch United changed their name in mid-season to Trans Tours United as part of a sponsorship deal with a major travel agency.

T. T. U's league form for the most part was abysmal, they eventually finished eighth in the ten team table — their worst ever position.

Performances in the Cup, though, were much better and the 4-0 eclipse of Eastern Suburbs in the final was even more emphatic than the result indicates.

Trans Tours' best result though was the 1-0 victory over the touring Hearts of Midlothian, Scotland's representatives in this season's European Cup-Winners Cup.

Experimental

The national side failed to follow T. T. U's example, being well beaten 3-0 by Hearts, this followed a defeat by a similar score to Sunderland.

To add to national coach Barrie Trueman's problems New Zealand also succumbed to a team labeled as Australia, though "An Australian XI" would have been more apt as the side was a very experimental one.

The Australians won 1-0 in Auckland and 3-1 in Melbourne, which hardly augurs well for New Zealand's forthcoming World Cup clashes with the Socceroos.

New Zealand may well beat the third team in the Oceania group, Taiwan, very much an unknown quantity, however the jaded Kiwis, containing the same old faces we've seen year after year, cannot be expected to offer anything more than token resistance to Australia.

Sadly, after a six year long struggle to avoid relegation, Gisborne City finally fell. Since gaining admission to the inaugural National League in 1970, Gisborne waged a battle against demotion similar to that of Fulham in the English League in the early and mid '60s, surviving season after season just by the skin of their teeth, until their tight rope act finally failed.

Gisborne, the only club from outside the four main centres (Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin) to play in the National League, kept the provinces' flag flying proudly and they will be sadly missed.

With the National League being expanded next season from 10 clubs to 12, the three Regional League champions — Hamilton, Nelson United and Dunedin City gained admission to the higher sphere.

Nelson will undoubtedly inherit Gisborne's mantle of being the champion of the provinces, their success this season was particularly pleasing as they had been knocking on the door of the National League for the last six years, being runners-up in the Central Regional League for five of those seasons.

Stricter immigration control has inevitably meant that the flow of overseas players coming to New Zealand has slowed considerably, unfortunately there are not enough local-born players of the required standard to fill the gaps.

The 1977 season will be crucial to the development of the game in New Zealand, the 12 team National League may provide additional excitement, though many fear that the three-down relegation system may induce clubs to play defensively.

New Zealand will have the only league in which 25 per cent of the participants will be relegated, a fact that must make some of the lesser clubs in the league fearful and as a result adopt dour negative methods.

The most interesting aspect of 1977 though, and one on which the whole future of the game in New Zealand may rest, will be the progress of local talent as they replace overseas players.

Franz Beckenbauer, the Bayern Munich and West German international captain, was recently the subject of an offer of £1.3 millions from Paris St. Germain. The French First Division club sponsored by Radio-Tele-Luxembourg were prepared to pay half the fee to Bayern, the rest to Beckenbauer. But the offer was turned down.

Paul Gardner's Diary...continued from page 29

The man who has made a big difference to Fulham this year . . . George Best.

Sun June 27: More referee trouble for the Cosmos . . . Beaten 2-3 in Washington, with one of the Washington goals pretty clearly (even on TV) punched in by centre-forward Paul Cannell.

Tues Jun 29: Only four short months ago Ken Furphy was the new Cosmos coach, with "impeccable credentials" for the job . . . Today he has resigned . . . That's the official announcement, but I can't find anyone who believes he wasn't fired . . . Assistant coach and longtime Pele pal Julio Mazzei says "Well, you can't play the world's greatest goalscorer as a midfielder and expect to get away with it forever" . . . The new coach will be the old coach who Furphy replaced — Gordon Bradley . . . Is he less defensive-minded than Furphy, I ask Chinaglia . . . Yes, says Giorgio, "and he knows how to deal with people." . . . Bradley's first act as coach is to sign goalkeeper Shep Messing from the disintegrating Boston team . . . Messing used to be a Cosmos player, but Bradley got rid of him a couple of years ago because his erratic life-style was not to Bradley's liking . . . If the Cosmos are going to raid Boston for players, why on earth don't they buy Wolfgang Suhnholtz, surely one of the best midfielders in the league?

Wed Jul 14: Bradley is off to a flying start . . . Four Cosmos wins in a row . . . Tonight is revenge night against Tampa Bay for that 1-5 drubbing last month . . . An exhilarating game it turns out to be . . . Tampa quickly 3-1 up, New York coming back to tie it 3-3 by half-time, despite having two goals disallowed . . . Something that doesn't go down well with Steve Ross who turns up in the press box at half time to berate Commissioner Phil Woosnam once again on the lousy state of NASL refereeing . . . Three more goals in the second half, with the Cosmos winning 5-4 . . . Surely one of the best NASL games I've seen in nine years . . . The league has nothing to worry about if it can produce games like this regularly . . . But, of course, it cannot, there are at present too many weak teams around . . . I haven't been keeping count, but I have a feeling the Grasshoppers are dwindling . . . Only seven of them tonight . . . But we were getting instant (give or take a minute or two) replays of the goals on the huge scoreboard . . . The first two I missed because I was watching the game . . . From then on I tried to keep one eye on the screen and found I was missing bits of the live action . . . You can't win against modern science, and it's foolish to even try.

Sun Jul 18: During the Cosmos 5-0 win over Washington today, soccer history was made, I think . . . A player gave a red card to the referee, and a yellow one as well . . . Just before half-time the ref dropped both his cards in the Washington penalty area, and there they stayed, a little splash of red and yellow on the green, unnoticed as everyone walked off the field . . . until Washington's, Alan Spavin, eagle-eyed, saw them, walked on, then turned back with a gleam of curiosity in his eye . . . Picking up the cards, he handed them to the ref leaving the field just behind him.

Tues Aug 10: At the Plaza Hotel, my favourite New York Hotel, redolent of Scott Fitzgerald and the vanished world of the 1920s, something different . . . A Soccer Business Seminar, a whole day of serious talk about franchises and profits and losses and tax shelters and promotions and sponsors . . . I find it remarkably bland . . . I was looking for meaningful revelations, for facts and figures . . . I get vague generalisations . . . To start things off Phil Woosnam outlines the structure of worldwide soccer and the role of FIFA . . . What, asks someone at the end, was the name of the body that runs this World Cup thing, VIVA was it? . . . You can hear a snigger or two at that, VIVA is a sex magazine in which Cosmos goalie Messing once displayed his talents as the nude centre-fold . . . In the evening the Cosmos romp to an 8-2 win over a pathetic Miami team . . . Chinaglia gets 5 goals and 2 assists, giving him the league scoring title . . . Pele scores another spectacular goal, this time with a bicycle kick . . . The level of soccer knowledge in the press-box is not what it might be, and the Queen's English suffers a bit, too . . . A discussion of the offside law produced this response from a journalist who shall remain anonymous: "Aw, it should be abolished, it hinderises the defence."

Sat Aug 14: I have a letter signed by Phil Woosnam and Victor Bonomo, President of the Pepsi-Cola Company . . . I am "cordially invited to join Pele and a panel of America's top soccer journalists to select the year's outstanding American or Canadian professional soccer player. The award will be given annually and carries a prize of $10,000" . . . Well it's not every day I have the chance to give away other peoples money and $10,000 at that, quite a sum . . . I plunge into the list of eligible players attached, and am immediately greatly depressed . . . After nearly 10 years of the NASL and its Americanisation policy, this is the best we can do? . . . It's no excuse to say that we're getting better foreign players here now, the fact is that the Americans ought, by now, to be better than this list reveals . . . Something is wrong somewhere.

Mon Aug 16: Cosmos training at Shea Stadium . . . They cannot play their play-off game at Yankee Stadium tomorrow because of a baseball game . . . Pele's patience never ceases to amaze . . . After the session, there he is bending down to autograph, carefully, the plaster cast of a young fan.

Tue Aug 17: No trouble for the Cosmos to beat Washington 2-0 in the play-off game . . . A dull affair, livened only by another goal-scoring gem from Pele . . . The ball pushed square to him on the edge of the area, a pause, and suddenly he is past two defenders as though they were mere shadows, and as the goalkeeper comes out, the ball is pushed past him, along the ground, just inside the far post . . . Absolute perfection . . . Now the Cosmos have to travel again to Tampa.

Fri Aug 20: New York are out of the championship, beaten 1-3 by Tampa . . . And, wouldn't you know, Tampa's second goal, the crucial one, came on a disputed play . . . Pele apparently fouled, New York running forward to take the free kick . . . But there is no whistle, the ball is slammed downfield by Tampa where Scullion, all alone, runs it into the area and scores . . . Violent protests from the Cosmos, Chinaglia throwing the ball at the referee . . . Later Rodney Marsh scores a fine individual-effort goal, and that's the end for the 1976 Cosmos . . . It is a shame, though, that these two teams had to meet at this stage . . . They are probably the two most attractive teams in the league.

Tues Aug 24: Ghastly shock for Tampa — and for the League — tonight: the Rowdies beaten 0-2 at home by, oh dear, the Toronto Metros-Croatia, that incorrigibly ethnic crew from north of the border, now led by Eusebio . . . The NASL cannot be happy with this turn of events, what with the final next Saturday being on national television . . . The absence of Pele will certainly hurt the ratings, the presence of the Croatians will not help them . . . In the final Toronto will meet the Minnesota Kicks, a very English team.

Sat Aug 28: Soccer Bowl '76 . . . the Cup Final of American Soccer, held in Seattle's impressive new domed stadium . . . A record final crowd of over 25,000 . . . Despite an 11.30 a.m. kick-off time . . . Television, of course, is responsible for that, wanting to show the game live on the East Coast at 2.30 p.m. . . . A fascinating game in which Toronto's guile and ball control was altogether too much for Minnesota's hectic pace . . . I feel a twinge of satisfaction at Toronto's victory, if only because they were the club that had the sense to sign Suhnholtz . . . And it was Suhnholtz who was elected the game's Most Valuable Player.

ERIC WEIL writes

Boca's title but are they best team?

ONCE IN a while it happens that the best team does not win the title and Boca Juniors eleventh Argentine professional First Division title could be a case in point.

Boca won the very first professional soccer championship in the country in 1931 and their eleven title wins are only bettered by River Plate's 13. Boca also ended their longest ever spell without a title — ten years since 1964 — although they did win the national title in 1969 and 1970. But I venture to say that Boca's previous titles must have been won by better teams.

A lot was expected of Boca Juniors when they became the biggest preseason buyers — goalkeeper Gatti, Ribolzi, Mastrangelo, Suné, Veglio, Sá — in an effort to outdo their eternal rivals River Plate who had swept all before them in 1975. But right from the start Boca's performances were mostly unimpressive and sometimes downright bad. In fact, the club management came close to applying the classic remedy — kicking out coach Juan Carlos Lorenzo, but nobody wants to remember that now.

Players

Lorenzo did have his difficulties during the first round when, apart from having to mould a team with so many new players, he was rarely able to field the same line-up while as many as four players were continuously being taken away for international duty. But other teams had the same problem.

In the end Boca did just enough to qualify for the 12-team final round with a 9 won, 7 draws, 6 lost record — but this is where the title fell into their lap.

Apart from the fact that the whole championship showed few good performances and fewer good teams, the final round included newly promoted Quilmes and Gimnasia y Esgrima who were both overawed by just getting that far; a declining Independiente still interested in the Libertadores Cup; a poor San Lorenzo who had got in with a nine-game winning streak, but then slumped into a 16-game winless dive; four Santa Fe clubs (Rosario Central, Newell's Old Boys, Union and Colon) who never had any title aspirations all season and rigid Estudiantes de La Plata who sometimes deserved better luck (and may get it soon).

This leaves two teams who should have beaten Boca Juniors for leading places — River Plate and Huracan. But River were so intent on winning the Libertadores Cup that they fielded complete reserve teams on three occasions in the final round — even against classical rivals Boca (in spite of which they drew 1-1). That they would fall between two stools and win neither the cup nor the league was only too clear from the start.

Huracan played the best soccer and showed it in a near record run of 24 games without defeat. Their open, often brilliant play with rotation, good passing and team work, was a joy to watch, even though they often had to give up their best men (Curuscosa, Houseman, Ardiles and occasionally goalkeeper Balay and Brindisi) to the national team.

Torrential

But eventually saturation seemed to set in and in the short final round in which every game counted (but nothing which had happened before), they had the bad luck to play Boca on a mud heap in torrential rain when good soccer counted for nothing. They lost 1-0 after previously having taken three out of four points from Boca (but that didn't count) . . . and the title went to Boca by one point.

Boca Juniors are not the first team to win the title with unattractive defence and counter attack, but for them even that method sometimes didn't come off as they floundered to find their feet. Yet at vital moments they seemed to show more fight than anybody else.

In the final round they were the only unbeaten team with six of their eight wins coming by one goal margins (the other two by two goals) — with luck playing a part at times.

But Boca Juniors, reckoned to be Argentina's most popular club, drew the crowds. There was no better example than their vital games against Huracan and Union when a capacity 80,000 crowd, drenched to the skin, stayed to cheer them right to the end — a factor of great importance in a final round in which even a classic between two big clubs drew less than 8,000 and the numerous non-vital matches were often watched by less than a 1,000.

There must, after all, be something to the popular belief here that "Boca's 12th player" (the fans) helps them to win — because often the eleven on the field didn't do very much to deserve it.

Racing Club, one of Argentina's "Big 5" soccer clubs — champions six times since the war and winners of the unofficial world title against Scotland's Celtic in 1967 — ended their poorest performance ever, just missing relegation by a point. And as befits a championship win in which good soccer was not prominent, modest San Telmo, only promoted this year, go down after playing better than any others — but they did have most players sent off and suspended (six in one match against Huracan previously commented on.)

At press time many clubs are on tour during the short recess until the start of the National Championship which was almost cancelled this year because of cost (mostly for travelling) and expected low gates at many centres. Thirty-four clubs — the 22 from the First Division, promotion winner Platense and 11 provincial league teams — play in four sections with the top two clubs of each going into a final round, but yet another reorganisation of the championships is expected for next year.

ARGENTINE (professional) FIRST DIVISION CHAMPIONS

1931	Boca Juniors
1932	River Plate
1933	San Lorenzo
1934	Boca Juniors
1935	Boca Juniors
1936	River Plate
1937	River Plate
1938	Independiente
1939	Independiente
1940	Boca Juniors
1941	River Plate
1942	River Plate
1943	Boca Juniors
1944	Boca Juniors
1945	River Plate
1946	San Lorenzo
1947	River Plate
1948	Independiente
1949	Racing Club
1950	Racing Club
1951	Racing Club
1952	River Plate
1953	River Plate
1954	Boca Juniors
1955	River Plate
1956	River Plate
1957	River Plate
1958	Racing Club
1959	San Lorenzo
1960	Independiente
1961	Racing Club
1962	Boca Juniors
1963	Independiente
1964	Boca Juniors
1965	Boca Juniors
1966	Racing Club
1967	Estudiantes de La Plata
1968	San Lorenzo
1969	Chacarita Juniors
1970	Independiente
1971	Independiente
1972	San Lorenzo
1973	Huracan
1974	Newell's Old Boys
1975	River Plate
1976	Boca Juniors

Totals: River Plate 13, Boca Juniors 11, Independiente 7, Racing 6, San Lorenzo 5 and one each Estudiantes, Chacarita Juniors, Huracan, Newell's Old Boys.

Classified results

West Germany (2) 2 (Hoeness, Toppmoller)
Spain (0) 0

West Germany: Maier; Vogts, Beckenbauer, Schwarzenbeck, Dietz, Wimmer, Bonhof, Beer, Hoeness, Toppmoller, Holzenbein.

Spain: Miguel Angel; Capon, Pirri, Sol (Portabarria), Camacho, Villar (Ramos), Asensi, Del Bosque, Churruca, Santillana, Quini.

USSR (0) 2 (Buriak, Blokhin)
Czechoslovakia (1) 2 (Moder 2)

USSR: Rudakov; Konkov (Minajev), Fomenko, Zviaginzev, Lovchev, Troschkin, Muntian, Veremejev, Onischenko, Buriak, Blokhin.

Czechoslovakia: Viktor; Pivarnik, Josef Capkovic (Jurkemic), Ondrus, Gogh, Dobias, Pollak, Moder, Masny, Gallis (Svehlik), Nehoda.

Brazil (0) 1 (Roberto)
England (0) 0

Brazil: Leao; Orlando, Miguel, Beto, Marco Antonio (Francisco Marhinho), Falcao, Rivelino, Zico, Gil, Neca (Roberto), Lula.

England: Clemence; Todd, Doyle, Thompson, Mills, Francis, Cherry, Brooking, Keegan, Pearson, Channon.

Hungary (1) 1 (Fekete)
USSR (0) 1 (Nazarenko)

Hungary: Rothermel; Kerekes, Torok, Balint, Lukacs, Nyilasi, Pinter, Csongradi, Fazekas, Fekete, Magyar.

USSR: Astapovski; Sauh, Reschko, Zviangintsev, Fomenko, Muntian, Buriak, Nazarenko, Minajev, Onischenko, Blokhin.

England (0) 3 (Channon 2, Thompson)
Italy (2) 2 (Graziani 2)

England: Rimmer (Corrigan); Clement, Neal (Mills), Thompson, Doyle, Towers, Wilkins, Channon, Royle, Brooking, Hill.

Italy: Zoff; Roggi (Maldera), Bellugi, Facchetti, Rocca, Benetti (Zaccarelli), Causio (Claudio Sala), Capello, Antognoni, Graziani, Pulici.

USA (0) 0
Brazil (1) 2 (Gil 2)

USA: Martin; Moore, England, Jump, Bob Smith, Eddy, Tommy Smith (Vee), Clements, Kowalik, Chinaglia, Scullion (Chandler).

Brazil: Leao; Orlando, Miguel, Beto (Amaral), Marinho (Geraldo), Falcao (Givanildo), Rivelino, Zico, Gil, Roberto, Lula.

Finland (0) 0
Sweden (0) 2 (Linderoth 2)

Finland: Enckelman; Vihtila, Tolsa, Maekynen, Ranta, Jantunen, Suomalainen, Esa Heiskanen, Rissanen, Aki, Heiskanen, Paatelainen.

Sweden: Hellstrom; Werner, Karlsson, Nordqvist, Andersson, Tapper, Linderoth, Grahn, Torstensson, Sjoberg, Sandberg.

Brazil (1) 4 (Gil 2, Zico, Roberto)
Italy (1) 1 (Capello)

Brazil: Leao; Orlando (Getulio), Miguel, Amaral, Marco Antonio (Beto), Falcao (Geraldo), Zico, Rivelino, Gil, Roberto, Lula.

Italy: Zoff; Tardelli, Bellugi (Roggi), Facchetti, Rocca, Benetti, Causio, Capello (Pecci, then Claudio Sala), Antognoni, Graziani, Pulici (Bettega).

USA (0) 1 (Scullion)
England (2) 3 (Keegan 2, Francis)

USA: Rigby; Bobby Smith, Jump, Moore, England, Clements, Eddy, Tommy Smith, Pele, Chinaglia, Vee (Scullion).

England: Clemence; Greenoff, Mills, Thompson, Todd, Brooking, Cherry, Francis, Keegan, Channon, Pearson.

Italy (0) 4 (Graziani, Antognoni, Bettega 2)
Rumania (0) 2 (Lucescu, Georgescu)

Italy: Zoff; Tardelli, Bellugi, Facchetti, Rocca, Benetti, Pecci, Causio, Antognoni, Graziani, Pulici.

Rumania: Jordache; Cheran, G. Sandu, Dobrau, Hajnal, Multescu, Jordanescu, Boloni, Georgescu, M. Sandu, Lucescu.

Kevin Keegan (right) shoots past Eire's Mick Martin during England's 1-1 draw at Wembley.

Finland (1) 1 (Paatelainen)
England (2) 4 (Pearson, Keegan 2, Channon)

Finland: Enckelman; Vihtila, Tolsa, Makenyn, Ranta, Jantunen, Suomalainen, (Pyykko), Esa Heiskanen, Rissanen, Aki Heiskanen, Paatelainen.

England: Clemence; Todd, Mills, Thompson, Madeley, Cherry, Keegan, Channon, Pearson, Brooking, Francis.

Wales (1) 1 (Evans)
Yugoslavia (1) 1 (Katalinski pen.)

Wales: Davies; D. Roberts, Phillips, Evans, Page, Griffiths (Curtis), Yorath, Mahoney, Flynn, Toshack, James.

Yugoslavia: Maric; Muzinic, Buljan, Katalinski, Hadziabdic, Zungul (Vladic), Jerkovic, Oblak, Surjak, Djordjevic, Popivoda.

Belgium (1) 1 (Van Gool)
Holland (0) 2 (Rep, Cruyff)

Belgium: Pfaff; Van Binst, Renquin, Dalving, Maertens, Van der Elst, Cools, Verheyen, Vander Eycken, Van Gool (Delesie), Wellens.

Holland: Schrijvers; Suurbier, Van Kraay, Rijsbergen, Krol, Willy Van der Kerkhof, Neeskens, Van Hanegem (Peters), Rep, Cruyff, Rensenbrink.

Cyprus (1) 1 (Michael)
Denmark (3) 5 (Simonsen, Tune Hansen, Rasmussen, Bastrup 2)

Cyprus: Constantinou; (F. Stylianou), Mertakas, Patikkis, S. Stylianou, Lyssandrou, Savva, Michael, Marcou, Kalafas (Miamiliotis), Charalambous, Kanaris.

Denmark: Benno Larsen, Johnny Hansen, Henning Munk Jensen, Rontved, Tune Hansen, Rasmussen, Olsen, Heino Hansen, Simonsen, Henning Jensen, Bastrup.

USA (0) 0
Italy (2) 4 (Capello, Pulici pen., Graziani, Rocca)

USA: Rigby; Smith, Jump, Moore, Chandler, Clements, Eddy, Scullion, Chinaglia, Pele, Kowalik.

Italy: Zoff; Tardelli, Bellugi, Facchetti, Rocca, Benetti, Causio, Capello, Antognoni, Graziani, Pulici.

Hungary (0) 1)Fekete)
France (0) 0

Hungary: Gujdar; Kereki (Torok), Kerekes, Balint, Lukacs (Kantor), Nyilasi (Nagy II), Pinter (Toth.A.), Csongradi, Fazekas, Fekete, Magyar.

France: Baratelli; Janvion, Rio, Tresor, Meynieu, Platini, Larque, Guillou (Curbelo), Emon (Six), Pintenat, Sarramagna.

Sweden (1) 1 (Sandberg)
Denmark (0) 2 (Bastrup, Berg)

Sweden: Hellstrom; Andersson, Karlsson, Nordqvist, Augustsson, Linderoth, Grahn (Tapper), Frederiksson, Sandberg, Edstrom (Grunhagen), Dahlqvist (Evesson).

Denmark: Benno Larsen; Tune, Andersen, Lars Larsen, Jensen, Rontved, Olsen, Heino Hansen, Paulsen, Bastrup, Bjerg.

● *Continued on page 49*

World Soccer's up the World Cup f

ARGENTINA

ASIA

Winners of Groups I to IV to be known by 31.3.77

OCEANIA

Winner to be known by 31.7.77

Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV	
Hong Kong	Israel	Iran	Bahrain	Australia
Indonesia	Japan	Iraq	Kuwait	New Zealand
Malaysia	DPR Korea	Saudi Arabia	Un. Ar. Emir.	Taiwan
Thailand	Rep. Korea	Syria	Qatar	
Singapore				
Sri Lanka				
1 winner	1 winner	1 winner	1 winner	Winner Oceania

1.4 to 31.7.77

Winner ASIA

1.8 to 30.11.77

Qualify for Argentina

CONCACAF
Caribbean Area:

Group 1: by 31.8.76 — Guyana, Surinam* → by 31.12.76 — Winner Group 1

Group 2: Trinidad*, Barbados → Winner Group 2*

Winner I-A

Group 3: by 30.4.76 — Haiti*, Dominican Republic → Haiti; Netherlands Antilles* → Haiti

Group 4: Jamaica, Cuba* → Cuba

Winner I-B

EUROPE

Group 1

23. 5.76 Cyprus 1, Denmark 5
16.10.76 Portugal v. Poland
27.10.76 Denmark v. Cyprus
31.10.76 Poland v. Cyprus
17.11.76 Portugal v. Denmark
5.12.76 Cyprus v. Portugal
1.5.77 Denmark v. Poland
15.5.77 Cyprus v. Poland
21.9.77 Poland v. Denmark
9.10.77 Denmark v. Poland
29.10.77 Poland v. Portugal
16.11.77 Portugal v. Cyprus

Group 2

13.6.76 Finland 1, England 4
22.9.76 Finland v. Luxembourg
13.10.76 England v. Finland
16.10.76 Luxembourg v. Italy
17.11.76 Italy v. England
30.3.77 England v. Luxembourg
26.5.77 Luxembourg v. Finland
8.6.77 Finland v. Italy
12.10.77 Luxembourg v. England
15.10.77 Italy v. Finland
16.11.77 England v. Italy
3.12.77 Italy v. Luxembourg

Group 3

31.10.76 Turkey v Malta.
17.11.76 German DR v Turkey.
5.12.76 Malta v Austria.
2. 4.77 Malta v German DR.
17. 4.77 Austria v Turkey.
30. 4.77 Austria v Malta.
24. 9.77 Austria v German DR.
12.10.77 German DR v Austria.
29.10.77 German DR v Malta.
30.10.77 Turkey v Austria.
16.11.77 Turkey v German DR.
27.11.77 Malta v Turkey.

Group 4

5. 9.76 Iceland v Belgium.
8. 9.76 Iceland v Netherlands.
13.10.76 Netherlands v Northern Ireland.
10.11.76 Belgium v Northern Ireland.
26. 3.77 Belgium v Netherlands.
11. 6.77 Iceland v Northern Ireland.
31. 8.77 Netherlands v Iceland.
4. 9.77 Belgium v Iceland.
21. 9.77 Northern Ireland v Netherlands.
26.10.77 Netherlands v Belgium.
16.11.77 Northern Ireland v Belgium.

Group 5

9.10.76 Bulgaria v France.
17.11.76 France v Eire.
30. 3.77 Eire v France.
1. 6.77 Bulgaria v Eire.
12.10.77 Eire v Bulgaria.
16.11.77 France v Bulgaria.

Group 6

16.6.76 Sweden v. Norway
8.9.76 Norway v. Switzerland
9.10.76 Switzerland v. Sweden
8.6.77 Sweden v. Switzerland
7.9.77 Norway v. Sweden
30.10.77 Switzerland v. Norway

Group 7

13.10.76 Czechoslovakia v Scotland.
17.11.76 Scotland v Wales.
30. 3.77 Wales v Czechoslovakia.
21. 9.77 Scotland v Czechoslovakia.
12.10.77 Wales v Scotland.
16.11.77 Czechoslovakia v Wales.

Group 8

16. 4.77 Rumania v Spain.
8. 5.77 Yugoslavia v Rumania.
26.10.77 Spain v Rumania.
13.11.77 Rumania v Yugoslavia.

-to-date guide on xtures and dates '78

Argentina'78

Group 9
9.10.76 Greece v Hungary.
24. 4.77 USSR v Greece.
30. 4.77 Hungary v USSR.
10. 5.77 Greece v USSR.
18. 5.77 USSR v Hungary.
25. 5.77 Hungary v Greece.

CONCACAF
(extra preliminary matches)
Northern Area
24, 25, 26.9.76 Canada v USA.
1, 2, 3.10.76 USA v Mexico.
10.10.76 Canada v Mexico
15.10.76 Mexico v USA.
20.10.76 USA v Canada.
27.10.76 Mexico v Canada.

Central Area
4. 4.76 Panama 3, Costa Rica 2.
2. 5.76 Panama 1, El Salvador 1.
11. 7.76 Costa Rica 3, Panama 0.
1. 8.76 El Salvador 4, Palma 1.
17. 9.76 Panama v Guatemala.
26. 9.76 Guatemala v Panama.
1.12.76 El Salvador v Costa Rica.
5.12.76 Costa Rica v Guatemala.
8.12.76 Guatemala v El Salvador.
12.12.76 Guatemala v Costa Rica.
17.12.76 Costa Rica v El Salvador.
19.12.76 El Salvador v Guatemala.

Caribbean Area
2. 4.76 Dom. Republic 0, Haiti 3.
17. 4.76 Haiti 3, Dom. Republic 0.
4. 7.76 Guyana 2, Surinam 0.
31. 7.76 N. Antilles 1, Haiti 2.
14. 8.76 Haiti 7, N. Antilles 0.
15. 8.76 Barbados 2, Trinidad/Tobago 1.
15. 8.76 Jamaica 1, Cuba 3.
29. 8.76 Cuba 2, Jamaica 0.
31. 8.76 Trinidad/Tobago v Barbados.

AFRICA
Extra Preliminary Round
7. 3.76 Sierra Leone 5, Niger 1.
21. 3.76 Niger 2, Sierra Leone 1.
13. 3.76 Upper Volta 1, Mauritania 1.
28. 3.76 Mauritania 0, Upper Volta 2.

First Round
1. 4.76 Algeria 1, Libya 0.
16. 4.76 Libya 0, Algeria 0.
9. 5.76 Zambia 4, Malawi 0.
30. 5.76 Malawi 0, Zambia 1.
4. 9.76 Upper Volta v Ivory Coast.
16. 9.76 Ivory Coast v Upper Volta.

ASIA/OCEANIA
3. 7.76 Australia v New Zealand.
6. 7.76 Taiwan v Australia.
10. 7.76 Australia v Taiwan.
13. 7.76 N. Zealand v Taiwan.
17. 7.76 N. Zealand v Australia.
20. 7.76 Taiwan v N. Zealand.

AFRICA

Extra Preliminary Time limit: 31.3.76	1st Round Time Limit: 31.10.76	2nd Round Time limit: 28.2.77	3rd Round Time limit: 31.7.77	Concluding Matches Time limit: 30.11.77
	1. Algeria* Libya	Algeria		
	2. Morocco* Tunisia	•		
				I
	3. Senegal* Togo	•		
	4. Ghana Guinea		•	
	5. Zaire* *Central Africa	Zaire		
Sierra Leone* Niger	6. Sierra Leone Nigeria		•	
				II
	7. Congo* Cameroon			
Mauritania Upper Volta*	8. Upper Volta* Ivory Coast	•		
	9. Egypt* Ethiopia			
	10. *Sudan Kenya	Kenya *	•	
				III
	11. Uganda* *Tanzania	Uganda		
	12. Zambia* Malawi	Zambia		

*withdrew

SOUTH AMERICA

Group 1
20. 2.77 Colombia v Brazil
24. 2.77 Colombia v Paraguay
6. 3.77 Paraguay v Colombia
9. 3.77 Brazil v Colombia
13. 3.77 Paraguay v Brazil
17/20. 3.77 Brazil v Paraguay

Group 2
9. 2.77 Venezuela v Uruguay
27. 2.77 Bolivia v Uruguay
6. 3.77 Venezuela v Bolivia
13. 3.77 Bolivia v Venezuela
17. 3.77 Uruguay v Venezuela
27. 3.77 Uruguay v Bolivia

Group 3
20. 2.77 Ecuador v Peru
27. 2.77 Ecuador v Chile
6. 3.77 Chile v Peru
12. 3.77 Peru v Ecuador
20. 3.77 Chile v Ecuador
26. 3.77 Peru v Chile

Next month full details of all first round European Cup matches

League Tables

EAST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dynamo Dresden	2	1	1	0	6	2	3
Carl Zeiss Jena	2	1	1	0	4	2	3
Vorwarts Frankfurt	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Berlin Dynamo	2	1	0	1	3	1	2
Sachsenring Zwickau	2	1	0	1	2	1	2
Wismut Aue	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Stahl Riesa	2	1	0	1	4	5	2
Magdeburg	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Rot-Weiss Erfurt	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Union Berlin	2	1	0	1	2	3	2
Chemie Halle	2	1	0	1	3	5	2
Lok. Leipzig	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Hansa Rostock	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Karl-Marx-Stadt	2	0	1	1	2	4	1

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dundee United	2	2	0	0	3	1	4
Aberdeen	2	1	1	0	7	2	3
Motherwell	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Hearts	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Rangers	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Kilmarnock	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Ayr United	2	1	0	1	2	5	2
Hibernian	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Celtic	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Partick Thistle	2	0	1	1	0	2	1

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	5	4	0	1	9	5	8
Middlesbrough	5	3	2	0	4	1	8
Manchester City	5	2	3	0	6	3	7
Aston Villa	5	3	0	2	12	6	6
Everton	5	2	2	1	9	4	6
Arsenal	5	2	2	1	7	4	6
Bristol City	5	2	2	1	7	4	6
Manchester Utd	5	1	3	1	8	7	5
Newcastle	5	1	3	1	6	5	5
West Bromwich	5	2	1	2	5	4	5
Leicester	5	0	5	0	3	3	5
Ipswich	5	1	3	1	8	9	5
Tottenham	5	2	1	2	5	7	5
Stoke	5	1	3	1	3	5	5
Queen's PR	5	2	1	2	5	8	5
Coventry	5	2	0	3	7	8	4
Leeds	5	1	2	2	6	7	4
Birmingham	5	1	2	2	4	5	4
Derby	5	0	3	2	4	7	3
Sunderland	5	0	3	2	4	8	3
West Ham	5	1	1	3	2	8	3
Norwich	5	1	0	4	2	8	2

Leeds United goalkeeper David Harvey punches clear from Tottenham Hotspur's new signing Ian Moores (centre) with Paul Madeley in attendance.

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Roda JC Kerkrade	6	5	1	0	12	3	11
Feyenoord R'dam	6	5	0	1	14	5	10
Ajax Amsterdam	6	4	0	2	11	6	8
Haarlem	6	3	1	2	9	5	7
Sparta R'dam	6	3	1	2	8	8	7
VVV Venlo	6	3	1	2	7	10	7
PSV Eindhoven	6	2	2	2	10	7	6
Utrecht	6	2	2	2	9	10	6
GAE Deventer	6	2	2	2	7	9	6
NEC Nijmegen	6	2	1	3	15	9	5
AZ '67 Alkmaar	6	2	1	3	10	9	5
EEV Eindoven	6	1	3	2	6	10	5
De Graafschap Dot	6	2	1	3	6	9	5
Den Haag	6	1	2	3	5	7	4
Telstar Velsen	6	1	2	3	6	10	4
Twente Enschede	6	1	1	4	4	9	3
Amsterdam	6	0	3	3	5	13	3

AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
SW Innisbruck	8	4	4	0	14	6	12
Austria Salzburg	8	4	1	3	13	9	9
Vienna	8	3	3	2	9	7	9
VOeEST Linz	8	2	4	2	11	7	8
Rapid	8	3	2	3	11	11	8
Grazer AK	8	2	4	2	7	10	8
Austria/WAC	8	3	1	4	10	14	7
Sturm Graz	8	3	1	4	11	18	7
Linzer ASK	8	2	2	4	13	14	6
Admira/Wacker	8	2	2	4	8	11	6

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting	2	2	0	0	6	1	4
Porto	2	1	1	0	3	0	3
Beira-Mar	2	1	1	0	5	2	3
Estoril	2	1	1	0	4	2	3
Vit. Setubal	2	1	0	1	7	4	2
Boavista Porto	2	1	0	1	5	4	2
Academico Coimbra	2	1	0	1	4	4	2
Braga	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Portimonense	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Vit. Guimaraes	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Belenenses	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Montijo	2	1	0	1	2	4	2
Leixoes Porto	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Benfica	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
Varzim	2	0	1	1	2	8	1
Atletico	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Espanol Barcelona	2	2	0	0	4	1	4
Athletico Bilbao	2	2	0	0	4	2	4
Valencia	2	1	1	0	4	2	3
Sevilla	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Atletico Madrid	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
Barcelona	2	1	0	1	4	1	2
Real Madrid	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Real Sociedad	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Hercules Alicante	2	1	0	1	1	1	2
Racing Santander	2	1	0	1	1	1	2
Elche	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Malaga	2	1	0	1	1	2	2
Las Palmas	2	1	0	1	1	4	2
Burgos	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Real Zaragoza	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Celta Vigo	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Salamanca	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
Real Betis	2	0	0	2	0	2	0

QPR full-back Dave Clement scores his side's winning goal against Aston Villa at Loftus Road.

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nice	6	5	1	0	11	2	11
Nantes	6	5	0	1	16	7	10
Lyon	6	3	3	0	14	7	9
Bastia	6	3	2	1	16	8	8
Lens	6	3	2	1	16	13	8
Reims	6	3	1	2	11	8	7
Bordeaux	6	3	1	2	6	4	7
Nimes	6	3	1	2	9	9	7
St-Etienne	6	1	4	1	4	3	6
Metz	6	2	2	2	9	9	6
Valenciennes	6	2	2	2	9	10	6
Troys	6	2	1	3	6	7	5
Laval	6	2	1	3	9	12	5
Marseille	6	2	1	3	8	11	5
Nancy	6	1	2	3	7	11	4
Sochaux	6	2	0	4	7	12	4
St-Germain	6	1	1	4	7	12	3
Lille	6	1	1	4	9	15	3
Angers	6	1	1	4	6	13	3
Rennes	6	1	1	4	2	9	3

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Bratislava	5	4	0	1	13	3	8
Zbrojovka Brno	5	3	1	1	8	4	7
Jednota Trencin	5	3	1	1	8	5	7
Lok. Kosice	5	3	0	2	6	6	6
Slovan Bratislava	5	3	0	2	8	8	6
Dukla	4	2	1	1	8	5	5
Slavia	5	1	3	1	6	5	5
Banik Ostrava	5	2	1	2	7	6	5
Sparta	5	2	1	2	6	6	5
Union Teplice	5	2	1	2	8	8	5
ZVL Zilina	5	1	2	2	6	7	4
Skoda Pizen	5	0	4	1	4	5	4
VSS Kosice	5	2	0	3	7	11	4
Bohemians	5	1	1	3	6	8	3
Spartak Trnava	4	1	0	3	3	11	2
Frydek-Mustek	5	1	0	4	4	10	2

USSR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Torpedo Moscow	4	3	1	0	6	1	7
Zenit Leningrad	5	3	1	1	6	4	7
Dynamo Moscow	4	2	1	1	5	3	5
Krilija K'byschev	4	1	3	0	2	0	5
Sarja Vorosch'gr	4	2	1	1	3	3	5
Lokomotiv Moscow	5	2	1	2	4	5	5
Schachtj Donezk	4	1	2	1	3	1	4
Spartak Moscow	4	2	0	2	6	5	4
Dynamo Tbilisi	4	1	2	1	3	3	4
CSKA Moscow	4	2	0	2	4	5	4
Dnjepr Dnjep'trowsk	4	2	0	2	4	5	4
Karpaty Lvov	4	1	2	1	3	4	4
Ararat Erevan	4	0	3	1	3	4	3
Dynamo Minsk	6	0	3	3	2	6	3
Tschernomor Odessa	4	1	0	3	2	4	2
Dynamo Kiev	4	1	0	3	3	6	2

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cologne	5	5	0	0	14	2	10
Monchengladbach	5	3	2	0	9	4	8
Braunschweig	5	3	1	1	11	8	7
Hamburger SV	5	3	1	1	11	8	7
Bayern	5	2	2	1	16	9	6
Hertha BSC	5	2	2	1	7	3	6
Dortmund	5	2	2	1	7	6	6
Schalke 04	5	3	0	2	11	11	6
MSV Duisburg	5	1	3	1	8	6	5
Kaiserslautern	5	2	1	2	5	5	5
VfL Bochum	4	2	0	2	5	7	4
Karlsruher SC	4	1	2	1	4	6	4
Eintracht Frankfurt	5	2	0	3	15	12	4
Saarbrücken	5	2	0	3	5	5	4
Tennis Borussia	5	1	1	3	8	23	3
Werder Bremen	5	0	2	3	6	11	2
Rot-Weiss Essen	5	0	1	4	4	12	1
Fortuna Düsseldorf	5	0	0	5	6	14	0

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ujpest Dozsa	6	6	0	0	21	4	12
Ferencvaros	6	5	1	0	17	4	11
Vasas Budapest	6	5	0	1	17	7	10
Haladas Szombathely	6	4	1	1	10	8	9
Honved Budapest	6	3	2	1	9	6	8
Salgotarjan	6	3	1	2	12	12	7
Rakoczi Kaposvar	6	2	3	1	9	9	7
Videoton	6	3	0	3	18	9	6
Dunaujvaros	6	2	2	2	7	7	6
Tatabanya	6	3	0	3	11	12	6
Zalaegerszeg	6	2	1	3	5	5	5
Raba ETO Gyor	6	2	1	3	6	10	5
Csepel Budapest	6	1	2	3	7	10	4
Spartakus Bekescsaba	6	0	4	2	7	11	4
Szeged EOL	6	1	1	4	5	21	3
Diosgyor	6	1	0	5	6	15	2
Dorog	6	0	2	4	4	13	2
MTK/VM	6	0	1	5	4	12	1

● *Continued from page 45*

Switzerland (1) 2 (Bizzini, Barberis)
Poland (0) 1 (Boniek)

Switzerland: Burgener; Brechbuhl, Trinchero, Bizzini, Fischbach, Hasler, Barberis, Botteron, Cornioley, Muller, Elsener.

Poland: Tomaszewski; Wawrowski (Szymanowski), Janas, Boguszewicz, Olsza (Pawlowski), Boniek, Kmiecik, Lato, Ogaza, Kusto (Cmikiewicz).

Finland (0) 1 (Jantunen)
Switzerland (0) 0

Finland: Enckelman; Kautonen, Vihtila, Tolsa, Ranta, Jantunen, Suomalainen, Hamalainen (Laine, then E. Heiskanen), Rissanen, A. Heiskanen, Paatelainen.

Switzerland: Burgener (Kung); Brechbuhl, Bizzini, Trinchero, Fischbach, Hasler, Barberis, Botteron, Cornioley, Muller, Elsener (Risi).

LEAGUE TABLES

PERU
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima ...	10	5	5	0	19	3	15
Universitario ...	10	5	4	1	17	10	14
Union Huaral ...	10	5	4	1	13	4	14
Sport Boys	10	4	5	1	16	13	13
L. de Huanuco .	10	3	6	1	13	8	12
Juan Aurich	10	3	5	2	8	7	11
Melgar FC	9	3	4	2	14	12	10
Alfonso Ugarte .	9	4	2	3	14	11	10
Dep. Junin	10	3	4	3	12	9	10
Cienciano	9	3	4	2	9	8	10
Dep. Municipal .	10	1	7	2	12	16	9
Defensor Lima .	10	3	2	5	17	22	8
Sporting Crist. .	10	1	5	4	6	11	7
Atletico Chalaco	10	1	4	5	10	21	6
Col. Nac. Iquitos	10	0	4	6	5	14	4
Carlos Manucci	9	2	0	7	9	26	4

CHILE
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Union Española	20	14	5	1	44	17	33
Everton	20	13	5	2	40	24	31
Univ. de Chile ..	20	12	4	4	44	27	28
Palestino	20	10	7	3	42	29	27
Green Cross ...	20	11	5	4	38	21	27
Colo Colo	20	10	6	4	35	20	26
Wanderers	20	8	6	6	37	32	22
Antofagasta	20	8	6	6	41	41	22
Univ. Catolica ..	20	7	6	7	32	29	20
Huachipato	20	7	4	9	30	37	18
Ovalle	20	7	4	9	34	30	18
Concepción	20	6	4	10	30	30	16
Rangers	20	4	6	10	25	30	14
Aviacion	20	4	6	10	27	43	14
Lota Schwager .	20	3	7	10	20	38	13
Naval	20	4	3	13	18	33	11
La Serena	20	4	2	14	26	37	10
Santiago Morn..	20	4	2	14	21	38	10

BRAZIL
Carioca League (2nd round)

Leaders:	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fluminense	5	4	1	0	11	3	9
Flamengo	5	3	1	1	10	7	7
Vasco da Gama	5	3	1	1	9	5	7
Americano	5	2	1	2	6	5	5

Sao Paulo State League (2nd round)

Leaders:	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palmeiras	8	5	3	0	11	5	13
XV de Novembro	8	4	3	1	8	5	11
Guarani (X)	8	3	4	1	7	6	11
Portuguesa D...	8	3	3	2	7	6	9
America	8	3	3	2	6	4	9

(X) Guarani have extra point for winning first round of championship.

URUGUAY
First Division (final)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Defensor	22	13	6	3	33	24	32
Peñarol	22	13	5	4	40	21	31
Nacional	22	12	4	6	43	30	30
Danubio	22	8	7	7	28	26	23
Huracan Buceo	22	7	8	7	33	38	22
Wanderers	22	7	7	8	29	30	21
Cerro	22	6	7	9	21	29	19
River Plate	22	4	11	7	26	31	19
Rentistas	22	5	8	9	30	37	18
Sud America ...	22	5	8	9	21	29	18
Fenix	22	5	8	9	31	35	18
Liverpool	22	5	5	12	25	30	15

Bottom of relegation table (adding 1975 & 1976 points): Sud America 35, Rentistas 34, Fenix 31 — Fenix relegated).

PARAGUAY: First Division
(end of second round (18 games) — top six play on in final round)

1) Cerro Porteño 26 pts; 2) Libertad, River Plate, Olimpia 23; 5) Sportivo Luqueño, Guarani 18; 7) Nacional 16; 8) Resistencia 13; 9) Rubio Ñu, Sol de America 10 (Sol de America relegated on goal average — Atletico Tembetary won promotion).

ARGENTINA Metropolitan First Division
Final Round

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boca Juniors ..	11	8	3	0	18	8	19
Huracan	11	8	2	2	20	12	18
Estudiantes La P	11	5	4	2	16	13	14
Union Santa Fe	11	5	3	3	16	13	13
River Plate	11	3	7	1	13	11	13
Newell's O B ...	11	4	4	3	11	12	12
Quilmes	11	2	6	3	18	18	10
Rosario Central	11	2	5	4	14	16	9
Colon Santa Fe	11	2	4	5	15	20	8
Independiente ...	11	3	0	8	17	17	6
Gim. y Es L P ..	11	1	4	6	13	21	6
San Lorenzo ...	11	1	4	6	7	17	6

Relegation Section

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Temperley	9	6	2	1	15	6	14
Atlanta	9	3	5	1	14	13	11
FC Oeste	9	3	4	2	13	11	10
Banfield	9	2	5	2	18	12	9
Velez Sarsfield .	9	2	5	2	11	10	9
Chacarita Jnrs..	9	3	3	3	11	14	9
Argentino J. ...	9	0	8	1	11	15	8
All Boys	9	2	3	4	12	14	7
Racing	9	2	3	4	9	12	7
San Telmo	9	2	2	5	12	17	6

Champions Boca Juniors Qualify for next year's Libertadores Cup — Bottom San Telmo relegated to First Division B).

Top scorers: Kempes (Rosario Central) 21, Marchetti (Union) 19, Astegiano (Independiente) 17, Brindisi (Huracan) & Palacios (Newell's) 16.

Action from the Spanish first division match between Barcelona and Real Madrid ... Cruyff (9) of Barcelona attacks the Real goal with Benito (5) and goalkeeper Miguel Angel keeping him out. Barcelona won 3-1.

STAN BOWLES and IAN GILLARD Q.P.R.

World Soccer

MICK WALSH ***BLACKPOOL & EIRE***